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CPA police involved in Buckingham case on admin leave. PAGE 3
NMC approves 'bonus' for faculty teaching new courses. PAGE 14

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POLL RESULTS

Do you support the proposal for CNMI foreign workers as outlined in the immigration reform bill crafted by the U.S. Senate's "Gang of Eight"?

Yes	115
No	67
Some parts only	26
No opinion	3

Sunday, April 28, 2013

INSIDE

LOCAL

Gov. Eloy S. Inos proclaims May as Older Americans Month.

➤ PAGE 6

NATION

Investigators piece together the details of the Boston bombing plot.

➤ PAGE 15

LIFE & STYLE

Clint Eastwood dreams of making films for two more decades.

➤ PAGE 19

Members of Team Bodig line up their luminaries during Friday's Marianas March Against Cancer at the Hopwood Junior High School football field.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

See more photos on Page 13

2013 MMAC raises $124K

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer raised a total of $124,049.95 in donations over the weekend, with longtime and new teams winning the event's prestigious awards.

Of this amount, over $84,000 was in cash. Overall committee chair Manny Borja said the total amount of contributions for the overnight event surpassed last year's yield.

Borja acknowledged the hard work put in not only by the committee but especially the various participating teams and sponsors for making the Commonwealth Cancer Association's annual fundraiser a huge success.

"Everything is because of the teams and sponsors. This year's turnout shows that the community's support in the battle against cancer is growing and we're very pleased with that," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

"We're all affected by cancer in one

See MMAC on Page 4

Tinian casino resumes operations

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Local officials calls for inquiry
» Commissioners' hefty salaries under microscope

Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino resumed casino operations Thursday night, just hours after the temporary closure that morning because of a U.S. Internal Revenue Service investigation and arrest over Dynasty's alleged non-filing of required paperwork with IRS. Meanwhile, Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Tinian officials separately raised concerns about the casino commission's regulatory oversight functions and repercussions on the local economy.

See CASINO on Page 4

Michael Jackson found guilty

» Defendant insists he is innocent, asks for retrial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Jackson

A Superior Court jury has found 34-year-old ex-convict Michael Anthony Jackson guilty of kidnapping and raping a then 15-year-old girl on Saipan in 2010.

After deliberating for less than four hours on Friday, the six jurors reached a unanimous verdict finding Jackson guilty of kidnapping and sexual assault in the first degree. The jurors began deliberations Thursday afternoon.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, who decided on the misdemeanor charge, also found Jackson guilty of one count of assault.

Jackson will be sentenced on May 15.

See JACKSON on Page 4

Manta Ray drill team wins championship

The Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Drill Team won the West Coast National Championship in this year's Golden Bear West Coast Drill Nationals at Torrance, California, on April 28, 2013.

The SSHS team bested 55 competing schools from all over the U.S.

See MANTA on Page 4

The Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Drill Team is awarded the 2013 Golden Bear West Coast National Drill Team championship. In the photo are members of the Manta Ray Drill Team, instructors SGM Joaquin Kiyoshi, SGM Richard Basa, and acting SSHS principal Lynn Mendiola.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Paseo de Marianas eyed as next target for enhancement

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

After rehabilitating the peak of Mt. Tapochao, the Marianas Visitors Authority and its partners are looking at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan as its next enhancement project.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio said the collaboration would result in an important project that would make the walkway friendlier and more inviting to tourists.

The cooperative effort, he noted, would again involve valuable travel partners such as the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and Tan Holdings.

"We don't have the specifics right now but we have a conceptual idea of what we would like to see what that place would look like," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune*.

For example, he said, they are looking at introducing the CNMI culture at PDM, and this means involving other government agencies in efforts to enhance the area located in an area facing two major hotels on island.

Tenorio said that funding for the project would come from the additional revenue generated from the increase in hotel occupancy tax as required by Public Law 18-1.

According to Tenorio, the law allows MVA to use 5 percent of the hotel occupancy tax revenue for destination enhancement.

He revealed that since the implementation of the law this month, the government is expected to rake in some $200,000.

"We'll invest that into the CNMI product. The remaining will be used to help us promote travel to the Northern Mariana Islands," said Tenorio.

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan said in a separate interview, "We recognize that PDM is located at the heart Garapan—the heart of our tourism area—so we feel that it's time for PDM to have a facelift or just necessary improvement."

Tan, who is also an MVA board member, said that Tan Holdings' involvement in the PDM project would be through the revival of the agency's destination enhancement ad hoc committee.

He said he personally wants to see PDM become more family-oriented by having more dining and shopping outlets.

"I think that would be more family-oriented for all types of tourists, as opposed to having businesses catering to adults," added Tan.

Tenorio, for his part, said that MVA's position on the adult businesses in the area will have to be discussed internally as the issue involves zoning regulations.

"Our focus right now would be specifically on the site itself," he said.

Tenorio disclosed that besides the enhancement of PDM, MVA also wants to improve the other tourist sites on island, including those located in the Marpi area by ensuring that there are safety railings and serviceable restroom facilities in these sites.

"We'll make an assessment on the win-win projects that we can do immediately then get those going," said Tenorio.

The Paseo de Marianas in Garapan. CLARISSA V. DAVID

3 agencies team up to clean public library grounds

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's yard and its landscaped surroundings just got another refreshing new look, thanks to the latest collaboration between JKPL and two of its most valued community partners.

On Tuesday, April 23, 2013, the Division of Parks & Recreation field staff mowed the lawn and bushcut the edges of the public library's grounds, while the Saipan Mayor's Office field staff trimmed the overhanging shrubs and branches of the pine trees in the front parking lot.

Two weeks earlier, the Division of Agriculture's Forestry staff led by James Babauta collaborated with JKPL staff led by Children's Librarian associate Erlinda C. Naputi on prepping and digging holes throughout the library grounds for the tree planting held on Saturday, April 13, 2013. Library patrons composed of children, youth, parents, and JKPL staff planted foxtail trees and flowering plants around the parking lot and library grounds to kick off 2013 National Library Week and to celebrate Environmental Awareness Month activities.

"This latest and continuing collaboration is a great example of achieving more with less through resource sharing and leveraging to promote the public good. In the end both the community and their community library win," said CNMI Library Council chair Mark O. Rabauliman.

The CNMI Library Council and the management and staff of JKPL extend their gratitude to the field staff of Parks & Recreation Division, field supervisor Raymond C. Sablan, and Director Eliceo D. Cabrera; the field staff of Saipan Mayor's Office, mayor's adviser Henry S. Hofschneider, and Mayor Donald Flores; Forestry field staff and NMI Forester Victorino C. Deleon Guerrero.

Visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on Beach Road, Susupe to avail of the many public library program offerings, call 235-READ (7323)/7322/7316, log on to the library's website at http://www.cnmilibrary.com, or email joetenkiyupubliclibrary@gmail.com.

Libraries hours are Tuesday to Friday from 10am to 6pm and Saturday from 9am to 4pm. Closed on Sunday, Monday, and holidays. ***(PR)***

Tourism Topics

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

15th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden

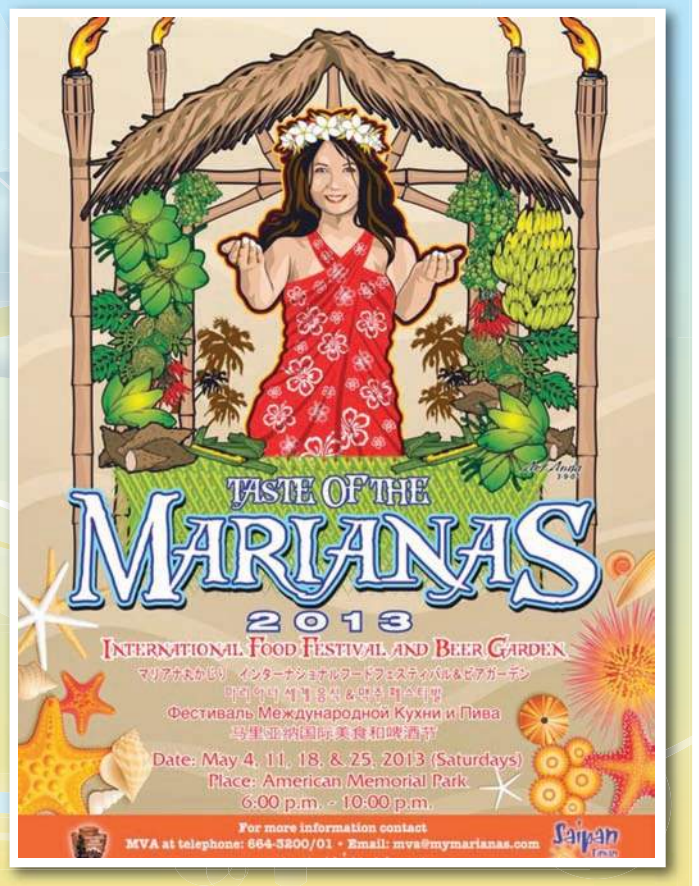
In celebration of May **Tourism Month**, the **15th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden** kicks on Saturday (May 4) at **American Memorial Park**.

The festival offers international cuisine at affordable prices by 17 participating hotels and restaurant vendors. Non-stop live entertainment on the main stage continues throughout each night. On the secondary stage, nightly contests are held for festival revelers. Arts and crafts are also available for purchase.

The festival is held every Saturday in May from 6-10 p.m. (the final night runs until 11 p.m.)
For more information, contact the **Marianas Visitors Authority** at 670.664.3210 or e-mail ftudela@mymarianas.com.

May 4 Entertainment

6 p.m.	Opening Ceremony
6:10 p.m.	Awadori Team
6:35 p.m.	Ukelele Jams
7:05 p.m.	Retro Jazz Band
7:30 p.m.	Uncle Ben's Music & Dance
8:05 p.m.	Pacific Flower
9:05 p.m.	Afetna Regime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2013
INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL AND BEER GARDEN
Фестиваль Международной Кухни и Пива
Date: May 4, 11, 18, & 25, 2013 (Saturdays)
Place: American Memorial Park
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
For more information contact
MVA at telephone: 664-3200/01 • Email: mva@mymarianas.com
Saipan

Local

2 CPA employees involved in Buckingham case on admin leave

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Two Commonwealth Ports Authority employees accused of involvement in the government case against former attorney general Edward Buckingham were placed on paid administrative leave pending the outcome of litigation, according to CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero.

He said the affected employees are airport police chief Jordan Kosam and Capt. Juan Rebuenog, who were earlier arrested with some other police officers for allegedly shielding the former attorney general from being served a penal summons in August last year.

Deleon Guerrero disclosed that the two employees are on paid administrative leave pursuant to the agency's personnel rules and regulations. Once probable cause is found to charge them, unpaid administrative leave will take effect.

Deleon Guerrero said that both Kosam and Rebuenog, who have been with the agency for some years now, will only be terminated if they are found guilty. "But right now, they are still CPA employees."

Kosam will be temporarily replaced by assistant fire chief John Dela Cruz while Rebuenog's post will be taken over for the meantime by other staff.

When asked if the ongoing case against the two will have any impact on CPA, Deleon Guerrero said, "There's always impact when something [like that incident] happened, but I think we were able to fill the gap and move forward pending the outcome of the case."

Kosam and Rebuenog, along with Department of Public Safety police officers Stanley Patris and Myron Laniyo, were arrested on charges of conspiracy to commit theft of services, conspiracy to commit obstructing justice, interference with law enforcement officer or witness, theft of services, misconduct in public office, and interference with service of process after they allegedly shielded the Buckingham couple last year. Kosam was also arrested on a charge of tampering with judicial records or process.

It was in August last year when Deleon Guerrero conducted an internal investigation relating to allegations that some ports police personnel abused their power and violated the law when they served as escorts for the Buckingham couple who fled the islands last year. The probe was in response to the request made by the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, which then investigated the matter for the Legislature.

That CPA probe concluded that no ports police personnel violated the law during the early morning of Aug. 4, 2012, when they assisted the local police and escorted the Buckinghams at the airport.

Bill requires bonding in procurement protests

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) has introduced a bill requiring a bond when entities file procurement protests to cover cost and delays resulting from the protest.

Deleon Guerrero introduced House Bill 18-66 on Thursday, days after introducing another bill precluding the judicial system from reviewing procurement protest and appeals already reviewed by the Office of the Public Auditor, to avoid unnecessary delays caused by protests and the review process.

In his latest bill, Deleon Guerrero said persons filing procurement protests are required to file a bond payable to the procuring agency in the event that the protest is withdrawn, dismissed, or denied.

"The bond shall be approved by the Insurance Commissioner and be in such amount and terms and conditions as determined by the director of the Procurement and Supply," says HB 18-66.

Protests on government procurement of goods and services are filed with the Division of Procurement and Supply director.

The procurement director's decision may be appealed to OPA.

OPA's decision may be appealed to the Superior Court.

"Protests are delaying important projects and procurement. The delays can result in financial burdens to the government. Persons filing protests which are successful should bear the financial burdens placed on the government," said Deleon Guerrero, chairman of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications.

At present, some $8 million worth of government projects handled by the Department of Public Works alone are under protest.

These include the Marpi landfill operations, the Saipan traffic light system upgrade, and the Cross Island Road improvement Phase II-B projects.

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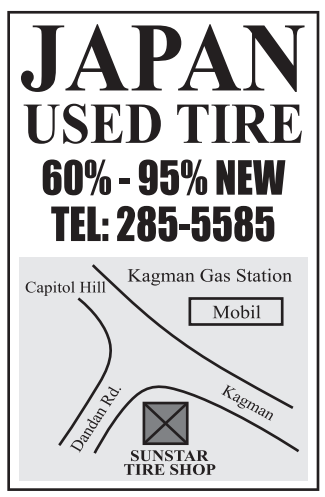

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$123.4M budget removes some programs, positions

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos submitted on Friday a $123.4 million proposed "balanced" budget for fiscal year 2014 that consolidates some agencies, privatizes both parks maintenance and sports administration, removes all deputy positions and vacant and new posts except those announced, and eliminates travel funds.

At the same time, the governor urges the Legislature to pass revenue-generating measures to help further fund public services.

The $123.4 million spending plan is an almost $10 million increase from the fiscal year 2013 budget of $114 million, fueled by tourism growth.

Inos' budget sets aside $20 million for the NMI Retirement Fund, double the current appropriation of $10 million.

The governor also gives the Public School System $33 million. This is $3 million more than the current funding.

Inos also funded all police officers and firefighters at 86 and 106 regular hours, to comply with the Fair Labor Standards Act.

General fund subsidy to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is at some $1.9 million.

CHC expects its revenue to reach $32 million in fiscal year 2014, and this is not part of the governor's budget because CHC controls its own revenue.

"Our goals while developing this budget proposal are to allocate sufficient funds to extend the operations of the existing retirement programs, reduce costs, and increase efficiency of government operations," Inos said in his letter to presiding officers of the Legislature.

The administration also directed departments to assess their programs and eliminate operational redundancies, promote energy conservation, and curtail or eliminate non-essential spending, including cuts in overtime costs.

The Legislature received the budget submission Friday afternoon, days ahead of the governor's May 1 deadline.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said yesterday he will begin reviewing the governor's budget, while House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) said he has yet to see the proposal.

The Legislature has until Sept. 30 to pass a budget, or there will be a government shutdown by Oct. 1, the start of fiscal year 2014.

The Inos administration expects to generate $145.954 million in fiscal year 2014—from Oct. 1, 2013, to Sept. 30, 2014.

Of this amount, $123.4 million is available for government operations after deducting debt service, earmarked funds, and other legal obligations.

The $145.954 million anticipated budgetary resources comprises: $64.183 million or 44 percent from business gross revenue tax; $36.3 million or 25 percent from income taxes; $19.5 million or 13 percent from excise taxes; $15.3 million or 10 percent from other taxes; $6.57 million or 4 percent from fees; $1.5 million or 1 percent from charges for services; and $2.601 million or 2 percent from other revenue.

The anticipated revenue gain for 2014 comes from increases in business gross revenue tax and hotel occupancy tax.

CASINO

From Page 1

Federal agents executed Thursday morning a search warrant on Tinian Dynasty, as well as warrants to seize its property and bank accounts.

Dynasty and at least two of its casino officials allegedly conspired to allow gamblers to conduct transactions involving more than $10,000 without filing with IRS a currency transaction report from September 2009 up to present.

Hotel operations at Dynasty, meanwhile, were not disrupted and were business as usual.

Inos said Friday that his office has commenced an "inquiry" with the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, which has oversight over the casino industry on Tinian, about "what's happening to Dynasty."

"I don't know at what point we would have to ask for that detailed information [revenue collection]. But right now we just want to know what's going on. This is not to say we want to interfere with the federal action and so forth; we just want to know how this thing will affect us [CNMI]," Inos said after signing proclamations on Friday morning.

The governor also said the events at Dynasty "caught us by surprise." He acknowledges that Dynasty has its issues and his office is not privy to the specifics of the federal actions that took place at the casino.

Inos said the casino industry itself is "certainly something that we need to be vigilant."

As to its implications on plans to also allow casino gaming on Saipan, the governor said safeguards have to be in place and regulations and laws have to be followed.

"If anything, it's a lesson learned and we just want to ensure that if and when casino legislation ever passes here, that we make sure the regulations are in place—that we safeguard the players as well as the industry, and the owners as well. We're not immune to anything but we will do our best to make sure if that happens, that we have the right infrastructure, regulations," he said.

Meanwhile, Dynasty employees have yet to receive their salaries covering up to seven payrolls as of this week.

"We hope the federal government will also look into delayed salaries of employees," one of the employees told *Saipan Tribune*.

Tinian joint leadership meeting

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, in a separate interview, said he is calling for a "joint leadership meeting" this week to discuss Dynasty's casino issues.

The joint leadership meeting will bring together the Tinian Mayor's Office, the Tinian Legislative Delegation, the Tinian Municipal Council and the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission.

"As far as casino operations are concerned, it's back to normal as if nothing really happened," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

The mayor said the municipality also wants to know why Dynasty was unable to comply with federal requirements as alleged by federal agencies.

Dynasty remits certain revenue percentage to the casino commission.

"Also, I would like to have an incident report from the casino commission," the mayor added.

IRS also subpoenaed documents from the casino commission. The latter said it has been working on submitting the subpoenaed documents.

Hefty commissioners' salaries

The annual salaries of two of four Tinian casino commissioners deemed "hefty" are again under the microscope.

The mayor and other officials confirmed that two commissioners appointed by the previous administration on Tinian—Bernadita Palacios and Ike Quichocho—continue to receive $75,000 a year excluding other benefits. This is even higher than the CNMI governor's salary.

Dela Cruz and other officials had previously asked for voluntary cuts in salaries given the economic conditions on Tinian, to no avail.

Dela Cruz's own appointees to the casino commission—chair Matthew Masga and Lydia Barcina—have agreed to a lower $60,000 annual salary in keeping with the tough financial times.

JACKSON

From Page 1

Jackson appeared calm after hearing the guilty verdict. After the jurors were excused, he asked the court to speak, saying, "This is a mistrial! I'm not that kind of person. My daughter will tell you who I am."

He said he did not force anybody to get inside his car and that at the time he was on his way to pick up his girlfriend.

"I'm no threat to anyone here in the community," he said, adding that the court should order a retrial.

Jackson also questioned why the girl was out late that night and why her parents allowed her to be out so late.

No member of Jackson family showed up in court.

During a break, Jackson told reporters that at the time he had drunk 16 cans of beer and was on his way to pick up his girlfriend when the girl asked him for a ride to China Town.

Jackson said he told the girl that he was too drunk and did not have enough gas. He said the girl got in and was in fact the one who drove the car.

Jackson said he does not even know whether he actually had sex with the girl.

When told that his lawyers argued that he had consensual sex with the girl, Jackson said he only admitted that he had consensual sex with the girl as an excuse because he could not explain to his wife the hickeys on his neck.

Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig, who served as counsel for Jackson with assistant public defender Daniel Guidotti, asked the court to allow Jackson remain at liberty until his sentencing. He said Jackson has no passport and has never been accused of any crime while on pre-trial release.

Assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll opposed. Now that Jackson is adjudged guilty and facing a potentially lengthy sentence, she said he is now at risk of fleeing jurisdiction.

Camacho granted Driscoll's recommendation. The judge said he is concerned with the child's safety as well as that of other children and the randomness of Jackson's act of picking up a child on the street.

"You have demonstrated you have the ability to do that," Camacho told Jackson.

Jackson again asked the court to speak, insisting he is not a threat.

"I'm only asking for a retrial," he said.

In an interview after the hearing, Driscoll said they are very pleased with the verdict.

Driscoll said the kidnapping charge carries a sentence of 10 years in prison up to life imprisonment, while the sexual assault in the second degree carries a sentence of up to 30 years in prison.

The assault offense, she said, carries a maximum sentence of six months in jail.

The assault pertains to an event in a car where Jackson swung or slapped at the victim when she refused to smoke drugs, according to Driscoll. Assistant attorney general James McAllister assisted Driscoll in the trial.

Police said the girl was walking along Tun Joaquin Doi Road in Fina Sisu from an Internet café and was on her way home on Oct. 9, 2010, at about 1am when Jackson forced her into his car, brought her to an open field south of the Saipan airport, and raped her inside his car. Jackson then forced the girl to smoke "ice" or methamphetamine or "ice."

The girl later managed to run away.

The victim, who is now 17 years old, took the witness stand against Jackson.

MANTA

From Page 1

West Coast to take home the first place Sweepstakes Trophy in the Armed Varsity Division.

The team also won individual awards that included first place in the Tap Out Unarmed Division for Jude Palacios; first place in drill exhibition; and first place as best commander for Alexander Ito.

The team's other awards are second place, color guard; second place, armed marching; third place, two-man team; sixth place, inspection regulation; and 9th place, four-man team.

Acting Saipan Southern High School principal Lynn O. Mendiola praised the team's success, saying, "The students put in countless hours of practice to prepare for this event since last October. Our students placed in every category that they competed in and did an outstanding job! I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all the parents that supported their child to put in so much time and dedication in the JROTC program, as well as our two instructors, SGM [Joaquin] Kiyoshi and SGM [Richard] Basa, who go above and beyond what is needed of them. They saw potential in our students and encouraged them to share the talents that they possessed. We share our success with the whole CNMI. This is our win."

The group arrived in Los Angeles on April 24 and is scheduled to return to Saipan tomorrow evening, April 30.

The drill team is composed of battalion commander Jayson Arriola, Alexander Ito, Mark Kapileo, Mark Villones, Joshua Tydingco, Jude Palacios, Kristopher Morales, Conrad Calub, William Johnson, Edjay Sablan, Amante Andrada, James Kintaro, Derick Dela Cruz, Kimo Olopai, Sheela Marie Saraff, and Bennylynn Ada.

The group's chaperones are principal Mendiola, administrative officer Romana Maratita, and JROTC instructors SGM Joaquin Kiyoshi and SGM Richard Basa. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

MMAC

From Page 1

way or another, whether it's ourselves, our families and friends. We just ask that the community continue to support CCA because the money goes to a very good cause," he added.

The 12-hour event began Friday evening with an invocation from Fr. Ryan P. Jimenez followed by the recognition ceremony for some 81 cancer survivors.

The survivors were joined by their family members as they led the first walk around the Hopwood Jr. High School Field while cheered on by members of the 14 participating teams and other spectators.

One survivor, Maggie Deleon Guerrero Wonenberg, noted that MMAC is one of the events that help promote awareness about cancer and raise funds to continue vital research to identify causes and develop strategies for prevention, diagnosis, treatments, and cure for this disease.

Wonenberg, this year's inspirational speaker, shared her story about how one lump she found on her neck in February 2007 led to her cancer journey.

In September of that year, the doctor advised Wonenberg that she may have a type of cancer called lymphoma. One month later, a doctor confirmed that she had stage 3 of follicular non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

The news was difficult for Wonenberg, more so for her husband Barry, she said. Since the treatments were in Guam, Wonenberg had to deal with the pain of chemotherapy in each flight.

Although her husband and children did their best to make her comfortable and showed their love and care, Wonenberg said that ultimately she had to trod her journey by herself.

"This was my journey of my cancer; the path that I took not by choice but because I had gotten sick. The path where I found myself became my journey and I chose to be on the driver's seat," she told her audience.

Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, in his remarks, said that cancer is an issue that is close to his heart. He vowed to support efforts to educate the public about the disease.

"Many of the risk factors for cancer and most non-communicable diseases can be alleviated by leading a healthy life," he said. "So let us work as a community to change our habits and improve our health, and the health of our next generation."

Mayor Donald G. Flores urged the pubic to stop smoking, eat right, engage in physical activities, and have routine screenings to fight cancer, adding that the presence of survivors is a living testament that the disease can be defeated.

"It may take some time and it may be very difficult, but with perseverance and faith, we will defeat cancer," he added.

Winners of this year's event were Team Bodig, which took home the awards for Best Baton, and Most Luminaries Sold; Team Talaabwogh Star, Best Tent; Team Aschoscho, Most Laps; and Team IT&E/SSHS, Most Spirit.

For the teams with the most money raised, the winners were Team Bodig for Pulan (family) category with $15,940.93; Mount Carmel School for Napu (school) category; Team DHS for Atdao (non-profit/government) category; and Team PIC for Puti'un (business) category.

Administration awaits bill amending civil service law

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said he looks forward to receiving the Senate's civil service law amendment bill that the House passed on Thursday with amendment. The bill seeks to address Public Law 17-80's unintended consequence on the government employment of 66 individuals, mostly deemed with "special and unique" skills and expertise.

After a lengthy discussion and question-and-answer with officials from the Office of the Attorney General, Civil Service Commission, and Office of Personnel Management, the House passed the bill by a vote of 16-0.

Senate Bill 18-18, Senate Substitute 1, as amended by the House, goes back to the Senate.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan), author of the floor amendment, wanted the personnel director to not only concur but also "certify" the position that appointing authorities deem to be "special and unique and is essential to the public interest."

Inos said the House amendment doesn't seem to pose a problem.

"We're waiting for that bill to pass," the governor told reporters on Friday.

The 66 individuals' employment status was placed in limbo when PL 17-80 was enacted last year. Some employment contracts could not be renewed while others have difficulty getting compensated as a result of the law. PL 17-80 moved the Office of Personnel Management back to the Civil Service Commission.

A list from the OAG shows that the 66 positions included that of former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro, assistant attorneys general, paralegal, fishery biologists, wildlife biologists, fiscal specialist, architect, chief investigator, solid waste program coordinator, executive secretaries, hearing officer, administrator, civil engineer, marina officer, rate review administrator, administrative officer, program coordinators, administrative assistants, program manager, reporting specialist, energy auditor, building/energy code inspector, special assistant for operations, and foreign student assistant, among others.

They are employed in different government agencies such as the Office of the Attorney General and the departments of Public Works, Lands and Natural Resources, Labor, and Commerce.

Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas said he's satisfied with the House amendment, and that the OAG will be available to talk to the Senate when the bill comes up for action.

Assistant attorney general Ghasan Harb, Civil Service Commission chair Herman R. Deleon Guerrero and others testified in support of the Senate bill, during Thursday afternoon's House session. Harb is among the AAGs affected by PL 17-80.

During Thursday's House session, members' discussions focused mainly on ensuring that appointing authorities do not abuse their power by hiring political appointees and others that do not necessarily have unique and special skills and expertise.

OAG, OPM, and the Civil Service Commission said there are mechanisms in place to prevent hiring abuses or political hiring.

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SUMMER ACADEMY

The College Access Challenge Grant Program (CACG) is offering a scholarship of up to $800 for high school seniors and juniors to take college courses at the Northern Marianas College through the Summer Academy. The Summer Academy gives high school students an opportunity to gain meaningful college experience while they are earning transferable college credits. In addition to college level work, Summer Academy participants will also receive college advising, academic tutoring and college preparatory and life skills training. Participants also take part in field trips, workshops, and various team building exercises.

For more information, contact a CACG Outreach Counselor at 234-5498 ext: 1346 or email cacg@nmcnet.edu.

**FAFSA Application & Summer Academy Scholarship Applications due April 30, 2013

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May is Older Americans Month

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and officials of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs led by acting secretary Laura T. Ogumoro, pose with clients at the Aging Center following the proclamation of May as Older Americans Month last Friday.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Manglona appointed as acting Aging director

Gov. Eloy S. Inos proclaimed May as Older Americans Month/ *Mes Manamku/Marameer Tu-ufeyil Amerikkonu* 2013 last April 27, kicking off a series of activities to honor the elderly in the community.

Inos, who signed the proclamation in a ceremony at the Aging Center, also asked his audience to observe a moment of silence to pray for those seniors who have passed away last year and are unable to join in this year's celebration.

Over 4,700 citizens in the CNMI are considered *man'amko*—those 60 years old and above—and Inos urged the public to recognize the elderly for the experience, knowledge, and wisdom they have contributed to the community.

Inos also expressed confidence in acting Department of Community and Cultural Affairs secretary Laura T. Ogumoro and her ability to appoint the right person to lead the Office on Aging, one of the offices under DCCA.

The governor alluded to the recent controversy at the Aging Center, which led to the ouster of Rose Mondala as director of Office on Aging.

"I can guarantee you that this administration will see to it that your concerns are heard in the same manner that we took action in addressing your concerns in the recent past. I hope that we will continue to live up to your expectations," added Inos.

Ogumoro, for her part, acknowledged the *man'amko* as a "valuable asset" in strengthening the island culture and communities.

"*Man'amko*, without you, there is no us," she told some 50 clients of the center.

Last Friday, Ogumoro also confirmed the appointment of program coordinator Walter Manglona as acting director for Office on Aging.

Ogumoro asked the seniors and the staff to extend their usual cooperation and assistance to Manglona as he takes on a new role.

"Walter [Manglona] has been employed with the Office of Aging for over 10 years and has the experience and background to deal with and manage OoA issues. I am confident that he possesses the leadership abilities to take the OoA programs to greater heights," Ogumoro told *Saipan Tribune*.

Aging Center clients welcomed the news, saying that Manglona has been doing all the work at the center even during Mondala's term of office.

Saipan Seniors Advisory Council president Maria T. Salinas invited the community to join in the monthlong celebration, which will feature a lot of activities and events, including a softball tournament, roadside waving, motor cart race, Conference on Aging, and the event highlight, the Man'amko King & Queen Coronation.

This year's theme is "Unleash the Power of Age," and Salinas said the elderly will do just that.

"We may be older but we're certainly not slowing down at all," she added.

Friday's program involved several clients at the center, including Jess Pangelinan who led the singing of the national anthems, Ana Nakatsukasa for the opening prayer, Natividad Borja for reading the Chamorro version of the proclamation, Joaquina Mendiola for the Carolinian version, and Rosario Ibanez for the English version.

For more information, call 233-1320 or 21.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/SWMD13-RFP-002

RECEIVE, PROCESS AND MARKET SOURCE SEPARATED RECYCLABLES/OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY (MRF) AT LOWER BASE REFUSE TRANSFER STATION, SAIPAN

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through Acting Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals to **Receive, Process and Market Source Separated Recyclables/Operation and Maintenance of the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) at Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station (LBRTS)** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after **April 15, 2013** at the DPW, Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, Saipan. A Non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (**US$100.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Solid Waste Management Division Office. **A Mandatory Pre-proposal Conference** is schedules at **10:00 a.m., local time** on **May 01, 2013** at the Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station Conference Room. **Questions regarding this RFP** must be submitted in writing to Solid Waste Management Division, Pagu Avenue, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 322-2762 no later than **4:30 p.m. local time, May 06, 2013**.

EVALUATION PROCESS & CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with NMIAC §70-30.3-210 of the CNMI Procurement Rules and Regulations as revised. Proposals for the project will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Technical Requirements:

1.) Qualifications and Experience of the Firm-20%
2.) Experience or equivalent on similar projects-20%
3.) Technical Approach-35%
4.) Cost-25%

Cost:

Price is also a factor that will be considered and will be evaluated in comparison with the overall merit of the proposals. Technical merit is more important than price, and the Government reserves the right to award to other than the lowest proposer. As proposals become more equal in technical merit, the importance of price will increase.

Discussions may be conducted with the responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to insure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offer. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract. The firm selected will be subject to a responsibility determination to conformance with the Procurement Regulations Section 3-301 and must possess a valid CNMI Business License.

Award shall be made to the responsible offeror whose proposal is determined in writing to be most advantageous to the government taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in this request for proposal. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.

Proposers must submit an original and four (4) copies of signed; sealed proposals marked **DPW/SWMD-13-RFP-002 "Receive, Process and Market Source Separated Recyclables/Operation and Maintenance of the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) at Lower Base Transfer Station (LBRTS)**" to the office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **2:00 p.m., local time, May 15, 2013**. Proposal submitted by firms outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 15, 2013** and must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Drive by **May 24, 2013**. Proposers outside the Commonwealth must notify the Director of Procurement and Supply, in writing, of their intent to submit in order to receive this additional seven (7) working days for the receipt of the actual proposal documents. This notice of intent to submit may be any mode of written communication including facsimile to 670-664-1515 or email to procurement@pticom.com but must be received no later than **2:00 p.m., local time, May 15, 2013**.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-GOV-032

Opening and Closing of Burial Vaults at Marpi Public Cemetery

The Office of the Governor, Capital Improvement Program is inviting the submission of bids ("ITB13-GOV-032") for the provision of services related to the opening and closing of burial vaults at Marpi Public Cemetery ("Cemetery"). The ITB will follow the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Procurement Regulation and specifically those related to "Competitive Sealed Bidding." The ITB package will be available on April 22, 2013 at the CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration office, Capitol Hill. Submitted Bids must conform to the format and requirements identified in the ITB.

For Bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m. (Saipan Time), Tuesday, May 21, 2013 ("Bid Closing Time"):

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Marianas Procurement & Supply – Lower Base
P.O.Box 510008 CK
Saipan, Mp 96950

Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a notice of intent to bid ("Notice of Intent to Bid"). Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00a.m. (Saipan Time) May 21, 2013, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 21, 2013 and must be received no later than May 31, 2013 4:30 p.m. (Saipan Time).

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. (Saipan Time), June 03, 2013 unless a Notice of Intent to Bid is timely received. If no Notice of Intent to Bid is timely filed then bids will open at 10:30 a.m. local time, on May 21, 2013 The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS
Governor

/s/ Arnold Palacios
DLNR Secretary

/s/ Herman Sablan
P&S Director

Make-A-Wish holds frequent flier miles drive today

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In celebration of World Wish Day today, Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam/CNMI is holding a one-day United Airlines frequent flier miles drive.

Foundation executive director Victor Camacho said the miles drive would help grant travel wishes of children from Guam and the CNMI with life-threatening medical conditions.

Camacho said World Wish Day celebrates the anniversary of the creation of the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The largest wish-granting organization in the world began in 1980 when Chris Greicius, a 7-year-old boy with leukemia, got his wish to be a policeman with the help of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Camacho said anybody who will donate their miles to the cause won't have to pay any transfer fee.

He revealed that two million miles is the goal in today's drive. According to Camacho, a big chunk of the wishes of eligible children under Make-A-Wish Foundation require travel and the miles drive will contribute greatly in their efforts to allow children and their families to take a trip to any destination.

This summer alone, Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam/CNMI is expected to send nine children and their families to their destinations of choice.

"If we can raise two million miles, we can send approximately 30 people to the U.S. mainland and that's what we're trying to do," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*.

While the miles drive is being done across Make-A-Wish Foundation chapters throughout the world, the good news is that the miles donated by people from Guam and the CNMI will remain within the local chapter, said Camacho.

He also noted that even former CNMI residents who have relocated to the U.S. can also donate miles to benefit eligible children in the Marianas.

Those who wish to donate their miles can call (670) 483-WISH (9474) or (671) 649-WISH (9474) for more information.

Meanwhile, Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam/CNMI is celebrating 25 years of enriching the human experience of young children. The local chapter is scheduled to host its annual gala on Aug. 17 to mark this important milestone.

Camacho said the event is a $200/plate sit-down, formal dinner featuring live entertainment and raffle draw. Gracing the annual gala is Frank Shankwitz, one of the founders of Make-A-Wish Foundation as he was a police officer who helped fulfill the first wish.

He encouraged the community to inform them of any child with life-threatening illness.

"If you're curious to see if they would qualify for Make-A-Wish Foundation, the best thing to do is contact us and let us know. It's our hope that every eligible kid's wish is granted," added Camacho.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS, SSHS, and KHS Class of '03 meeting

The Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, and Kagman High School alumni classes of 2003 are inviting all classmates to a mandatory meeting on May 1, 2013, at 6:30pm at the Rayna Camacho residence on Capitol Hill. On the agenda is the upcoming 10th year of 2003 classmates' reunion to be held on July. For more information and/or directions, call Caroline Camacho at 789-3730, Rayna Camacho at 483-7769, or Ricky Itibus at 483-7104. We started as one, divided into three, and now let's be reunited as a Class of 2003! ***(PR)***

Bereaved Families Support Group meeting

A group that is in the process of forming a Compassionate Friends chapter on Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, May 2, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

The group offers understanding and hope to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents who are grieving the loss of a child of any age, and from any cause. We provide a safe, confidential setting, in which to share our experiences, while respecting and supporting each other, and listening. We have "been there." We do not espouse any specific religious or philosophical ideology. There is no "right way" to grieve, and family members are welcome to come to share or just to listen.

For more information, call Jill Derickson at 287-5337 or e-mail jilld@pticom.com. To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. ***(PR)***

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-019

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ENGINE LUBE OILS FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of engine lubricating oils for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan and Rota for the period starting August 01, 2013 through August 30, 2017.

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **May 7, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-13-019, Supply & Delivery Of Engine Lube Oils for Power Generation"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 23, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The Proposal Price shall remain the same throughout the term of the contract except for the variation in the MOPS and government taxes, duties and fees.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **May 10, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director for Power via email wallon59@yahoo.com and Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

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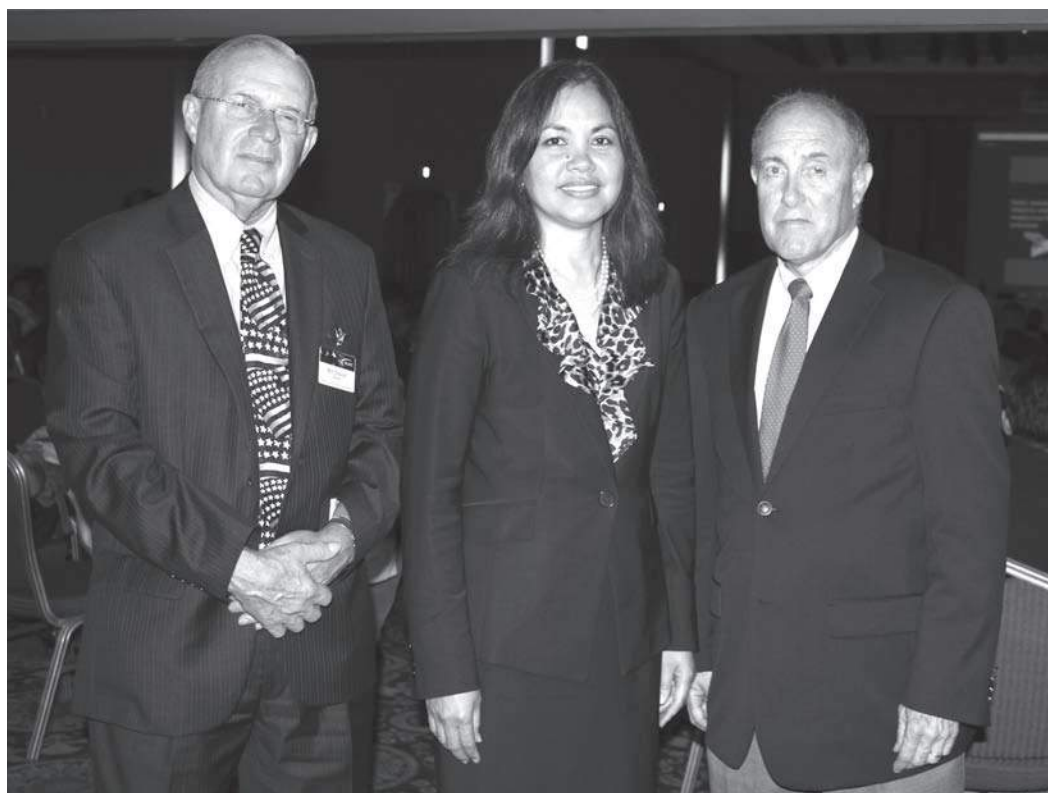
'Terrorists can attack any place, even the CNMI'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the NMI Alicia A.G. Limtiaco poses for a photo with former FBI special agents William E. Dyson Jr., left, and Richard Marquise during Friday's State and Local Anti-Terrorism Training at the Saipan World Resort Hotel's Royal Taga Hall.

In fighting terrorism, local authorities need to work with federal enforcement agencies as terrorists can strike anywhere, including the CNMI, according to a former Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent who is now a senior research associate with the Institute for Intergovernmental Research.

"Are there targets here? Certainly there are targets here," William E. Dyson Jr. told *Saipan Tribune* on Friday during the State and Local Anti-Terrorism Training held at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

Dyson said that talking about targets homes in on what make a society operate—the water system, fuel line, seaports, hotels, etc.

"Any place can be attacked," he said.

Dyson and another former FBI special agent, Richard Marquise, were the instructors at the two-day SLATT workshop co-sponsored by the United States Attorney's Office.

At the training, Dyson talked about domestic terrorism—attacks that are done by one's own people against one's own government and own society. Marquise focused on international terrorism.

Dyson said they conduct SLATT workshops everywhere in the United States, including the territories, as terrorists can attack any place.

Dyson said he is not aware of any past terrorist attack on Saipan or in Guam or in any other islands in the Marianas chain.

"However, there had been a terrorist attack in Boston. For over 10 years [with no terrorist attacks] and yet we saw that in the marathon. It can happen anytime," he pointed out.

Dyson's advice for the CNMI is that law enforcements here must be aware of the problem and that it's important that they work with the FBI and the Marianas Regional Fusion Center that is being set up in this area.

"In other words, the federal and local authorities must work together. We should be prepared. We should be aware that this problem does exist. And we should be aware that attacks can take place at any place," he said.

Dyson noted that many years ago, terrorists would have to attack big cities in order to get publicity for their cause. That's no longer true today, due in large part to modern communication, enabling terrorists to attack any place to send their message.

"With modern communication and transportation the way it is, it really doesn't make any difference where the attack takes place. The whole country hears about it almost immediately," he said.

Marquise said that SLATT, which has been around for 17 years, has been to Guam for 10 years now but this was the first such training in the CNMI.

He said the most important thing at the training is probably the networking that goes on when a lot of people are brought together to be trained.

"They're getting to know each other, the ability to share information. Because when we leave, they take what we have given them and they develop relationships based on that," he said.

Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the NMI, said about 150 participated in the SLATT workshop, mostly first responders.

"We wanted to reach out to as many community stakeholders as possible as we all know that law enforcement alone cannot do the job of protecting our community. We need the help from all of the eyes and ears on the ground," Limtiaco said.

Among those who attended the workshop were Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, Attorney General Joey San Nicolas, local and federal law enforcements, and representatives from the private sector that deals with security. The mayors of Saipan, Rota, and Tinian were also present.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled on **Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMARY MATTERS
 a. Call to Order
 b. Roll Call
 c. Adoption of Agenda
 d. Adoption of Minutes
  i. Thursday, February 7, 2013 – Regular Board Meeting Minutes
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 82 & 83
IV. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
 a. Division Monthly Reports
 b. Update on NMHC's Bank Signatories
 c. Signatories for NMHC Documents
 d. Proposals for REOs
 e. DPS Request for Garapan Unit
 f. Update on LIHTC Program - 2013
 g. Update on USDA RD Guaranty and Plan of Action
 h. Update on CDBG Matters
 i. Update on NSP3
 j. Update on Program and Housing Division Matters
  1. Amendments to the Admin. Plan
  2. FSS Action Plan
 k. Update on Mortgage & Credit Division Matters
  1. Loans for Review and Approval
V. FIELD OFFICE REPORTS
 a. Rota Field Office
 b. Tinian Field Office
VI. FISCAL AFFAIRS
 a. Unaudited Financial Statements as of March 31, 2013
 b. Actual vs. Budget Comparison as of March 31, 2013
 c. Update on 2012 Draft Audit
VII. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT
VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
IX. OTHER MATTERS
X. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Opening Date: April 29, 2013 **Closing Date:** May 17, 2013

Position: Receptionist
Salary: PL 18/01 – $13,052.98 to PL 18/05 ($15,870.10 P/A)
(Starting salary will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.)

Job Location: NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, May 17, 2013, **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than May 17, 2013, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Apr. 29, 2004

109 govt employees earn plaudits

A total of 109 government workers were honored yesterday as division employees of the year for their dedication to their jobs and the contributions they have made to the overall operation of the CNMI government. At the same time, Gov. Juan N. Babauta signed a proclamation declaring May 2 to 8 as Public Service Recognition Week. "The week is set aside to recognize all employees who put their time, effort, and dedication to public service," said Babauta during the ceremony held at the Multi-Purpose Center. "I call upon all our citizens to pause and appreciate the contributions made by public service employees at all levels who help ensure the quality of our lives in this great Commonwealth."

Senate, House pass important measures

The 14th CNMI Legislature passed several measures, some of which are heading to the Gov. Juan N. Babauta for approval during separate sessions yesterday morning. At the Senate, House Bill 14-32 that reappropriates an additional $500,000 for a Precinct 1 project sailed through the upper chamber with nine votes. The bill now heads to the governor for signature. The upper house also approved Senate Bill 14-45 that provides a Marine Reserve Area on Tinian, Senate Bill 14-35 for State Funeral Service, and Senate Bill 14-47 or the Military Service Homestead Act of 2004. The measures are now heading to the House of Representatives for appropriate action.

Apr. 29, 2005

Mobil demands collateral from CUC

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors adopted a resolution yesterday authorizing management to seek a letter of credit amounting up to $10 million to meet a demand by Mobil Oil Marianas. Mobil, the sole company that responded to CUC's request for proposals for fuel supply, had required CUC to provide a security for payment as a contract condition. The oil company set the condition in the wake of CUC's failure to make prompt payments during the past several months. In response, the CUC board allowed management during an emergency meeting yesterday to secure a letter of credit or other forms of security, in an amount not more than $10 million, to be used as security for CUC's fuel supply contract with Mobil.

Underground cable bill put on hold

The House of Representatives has put on hold the passage of a bill that aims to waive the fee for underground cable in the wake of vehement objection by the Marianas Public Lands Authority, Rep. Clyde Norita, who authored House Bill 14-324, said the House would honor MPLA's desire to hold negotiations with Verizon or its buyer, Pacific Telecom Inc., regarding the underground cable use. "We'll wait for the MPLA to report to us," said Norita. After being subpoenaed last week, MPLA officials showed up at a House session on Monday to speak on the proposed measure.

Apr. 29, 2007

Chamber backs more cost-cutting measures

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is fully supportive of the Fitial administration's new cost cutting measures such as unpaid holidays and further reduction in the government workforce. "Unpaid holiday is a very good cost-cutting idea. We have too many holidays here and at this time of economic crisis, that's one area that can be sacrificed," said Chamber president Juan T. Guerrero, reacting to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's State of the Commonwealth Address Friday. Guerrero said he also favors the possible reduction in workforce, which the governor said may be resorted to as a "last resort."

NMI to miss FY07 arrivals goal

Unless a miracle happens, the government won't be able to meet its visitor arrival goals this fiscal year. No less than Gov. Benigno R. Fitial admitted this in his annual address Friday, citing that airline seats from Japan have declined sharply this year. From 519,000 airline seats from Japan in 2004, Fitial said the number fell to 311,000 in 2006 and is projected to further go down to 204,000 this year, reflecting a likely 60-percent drop over that of 2004. "Our visitor industry has suffered from a decline in airline seats from Japan, historically the primary source of our tourists. In 2004 the number of airline seats from Japan to the CNMI was 519,000. It fell to 441,000 in 2005. After the pullout of Japan Airlines in October 2005, it fell to 311,000 in 2006 and promises to fall further to 204,000 in 2007.

INVITATION FOR BIDS
WATER TASK FORCE
IFB13-GOV-100

Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, is soliciting sealed bids for Security Services for the Water Task Force Drill Rig on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA. The Contractor is required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

The project Scope of Work and Proposal Forms will be available on or after **April 8, 2013** at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 AM**, on **April 19, 2013**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:00 PM on **April 18, 2013**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3-205. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked "**IFB13-GOV-100**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 PM local time **May 8, 2013**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 PM local time **May 8, 2013**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 8, 2013**, and must be received by **May 17, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 PM local time, **May 20, 2013.** However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 PM local time on **May 8, 2013.**

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos
Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply

INVITATION FOR BIDS
WATER TASK FORCE
IFB13-GOV-083

Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, is soliciting sealed bids for the Puerto Rico One Million Gallon Reservoir Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior and the Economic Development Administration (EDA), US Department of Commerce. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA and EDA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Demolition Work: The Demolition Work of this Contract comprises of the demolition and disposal of existing one million gallon (MG) Puerto Rico welded steel tank to include but is not limited to its tank concrete foundations, yard piping, concrete vaults, and appurtenances. And the installation and construction of temporary bypass piping and its appurtenances.
- New Work: The New Work of this Contract comprises of the construction of a one MG nominal capacity welded steel Tank to include but is not limited to its concrete foundation, access manways, ladders and tank appurtenances, earthwork, site work to include asphalt paved access and perimeter drive and perimeter security chain link fence and access gates, piping, utility tie-in connections, protective interior and exterior tank coatings, flow meters, valves, concrete vaults, concrete headwalls, cathodic protection to include its design and installation, disinfection, testing, startup, and appurtenant work, as shown and specified, complete and operable, in accordance with the Contract Documents.

A non-refundable payment of $500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **April 15, 2013** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 a.m.**, on **April 26, 2013**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 PM on **April 25, 2013**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3-301. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked "**IFB13-GOV-083**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 pm local time **May 15, 2013**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 pm local time **May 15, 2013**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 15, 2013**, and must be received no later than **May 24, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **May 28, 2013**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **May 15, 2013**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos
Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-018

RENEWABLE ENERGY INTEGRATION STUDY

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for a Renewable Energy Integration Study for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The focus of this Renewable Energy Integration Study will be:

- To determine how much variable renewable energy (Solar PV and Wind) can CUC economically integrate into its grid?
- To investigate the operational impact - at penetration levels ranging from 10% to 50% - for Solar PV and Wind generation.

A Power System Analysis software with a Renewable Energy module will be purchased and installed on CUC computers for grid studies and operations. The contractor will recommend and install the software on computers provided by CUC. The contractor will model CUC's grid and carry out related Load-flow, Short Circuit, Stability (dynamic and transient), Transient and Protection analysis, as well as simulations.

The study should address these questions:

1. What is the impact of up to 50% variable renewable energy penetration and how can this be accommodated?
2. How much Solar PV or Wind generation can be connected on any of CUC's 13.8KV distribution feeders? Can geographic diversity or distributed generation will help mitigate variability?
3. How spinning reserve should be modified to account for the variability in Wind and Solar PV generation. What is the additional cost of spinning due to this variability?
4. What is the increased O&M cost of diesel generators due to increased ramping and cycling?
5. What are the Short Circuit levels and currents at interconnection points on the grid?
6. What are the supply quality problems; including voltage stability /collapse and frequency fluctuations?

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on April 30, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-13-018,Renewable Energy Integration Study"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 20, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than May 10, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST) to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director for Power via email wallon59@yahoo.com and Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-020

DESIGN-BUILD RENOVATION OF CUC WAREHOUSE OFFICE AND STORAGE FACILITY

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Design-Build Renovation of CUC Warehouse Office and Storage Facility of the Commonwealth Utilities, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The selected A&E and Construction firm shall perform design and construction services for the renovation of the CUC Warehouse in Lower Base, Saipan. The firm must have experience on past design-build projects particularly on the island of Saipan.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **May 9, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-13-020, Design-Build Renovation of CUC Warehouse Office and Storage Facility, Saipan"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 28, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Statements of Qualifications will be evaluated, pre-qualified and selected based on the following criteria:

1. Familiarity and understanding of the CUC Warehouse staff daily activities
2. Qualifications and Experience of the A&E and the Contractor
   - o Proposed Methodology and Project Approach with Milestone Schedule
   - o Proposed Staffing and Experience
   - o List and Performance Recommendation on similar contracts, including the timeliness of the firms in meeting contract deadlines
   - o Present Workload and Availability

Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This Request for Proposal and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations ss 50-50-301 & 305, Procurement of Construction and Architect-Engineering Services.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 13, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - manny.sablan@cucgov.org. with a copy to John Mafnas, CUC Warehouse Manager, via email john.mafnas@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER
AP The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Boston bombing no excuse to hold up immigration reform

Congress should not listen to the hotheads and the anti-immigrant mischief makers who want to delay action on pending immigration reform because the two suspects in the Boston bombing case were immigrants.

The United States would no doubt be less safe, in fact, if reform—with its likely emphasis on increased border security and bringing millions of undocumented immigrants out of the shadows—falls to fear-mongering.

The immigration status quo is unacceptable. Congress and President Obama should waste no time in getting to work on a reform acceptable to all sides.

Reform will center to greater or lesser degree on improving security at high-traffic crossings at the border with Mexico, revamping the visa system and creating a path to citizenship for the 11 million to 12 million undocumented workers, largely Hispanic, now living permanently but uneasily in the United States.

A bipartisan group of U.S. senators, calling themselves the "Gang of Eight," has just unveiled a compromise reform plan. Mr. Obama has a proposal of his own. There will be other suggestions. It is hoped there are no unbridgeable gaps between them. It has been nearly 30 years since the last immigration reform, and the current system is broken. The momentum to fix it should not be slowed by the crime against humanity in Boston.

The surviving suspect in the April 15 Boston Marathon bombing, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, 19, who was charged with a capital crime Monday, and his brother Tamerlan, 26, who was killed in a shootout with police Thursday, were ethnic Chechens. Their family came to the United States some 10 years ago, legally, as refugees.

The younger brother is a naturalized U.S. citizen and the elder had a green card. The government knew who they were and where they lived. They assimilated to some extent, at least at first. They differed from other immigrants in that the vast majority of immigrants—both legal and undocumented—don't commit heinous crimes.

It's hard to see how a new immigration policy that works, one that makes immigrants visible, would make it more likely that similar monstrous crimes would be committed.

But here was anti-immigrant Republican Sen. Dan Coats of Indiana calling for a delay in considering immigration reform for a month or two until "emotions settle down." If that happens, opponents will look for another excuse to delay.

Congress, don't let the bombings kill reform.

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I have no idea how this happened... We operated according to usual American standards...
BANGLADESH CLOTHING FACTORY
TEXAS PLANT EXPLOSION
MARGULIES
©2013 JimMarg@aol.com

Is work just work?

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Many times in this column I have discussed the value of work and work ethics, but last week I saw work being done by a man like I have never experienced. This has left a lasting impression on me and has made me reevaluate my own ideas about work and its meaning. What I saw was like a spiritual experience. Watching him work brought tears to my eyes. Here was a man working against great physical odds but did it patiently and stoically. But let me start from the beginning.

Last week I visited the Philippines for medical reasons. While there, I had a few spare hours between visiting doctors and getting my medical consultation, so I decided to tour the city. I am always fascinated with the Philippines. Living in Saipan where it is quiet and with a small population, I wanted to experience the excitement the Philippines has to offer. Also I have always been interested in trying to understand why so many Filipinos desire to come and work here and why most of them do an outstanding job and are very loyal to the companies they work for.

From the hotel where I was staying, I hired a driver and car to tour me about the city. Driving through many areas, we passed wealthy homes with high wall fences while only a few feet away were wooden shacks where many of the poor live. I noticed the many small shops and eateries filling every square inch along the streets. We passed a small river that had flooded several years ago drowning over 30 people and also had flooded many homes. Meanwhile countless jitneys, cars, bicycles, buses, and mopeds challenged each other as they tried to pass honking away.

To enjoy a moment of solitude, I asked the driver to take me to see one of the beautiful churches that grace the city. He drove me to Santo Domingo Church. As we parked, I noticed a middle-aged man pushing a cart and stopping at the various bins in the lot. He would open the lid of the bin and take out several discarded plastic bottles that he would later sell.

At first, I didn't notice anything unusual about him, but all of a sudden I noticed something very strange about his movement. I noticed that under his right arm he had a crutch to steady himself. Then I noticed that he placed his left leg over the handle of the cart. It was then that I noticed that his leg had been cut off to about five inches below the knee. He placed this cut off leg over the handle of the cart and began to push it!

I stared while he moved from bin to bin, emptying plastic bottles from each. Again and again he draped his knee with its cut off leg over the handle bar of the cart and pushed it to the next bin. My eyes filled with tears and I choked up as I watched him move about as though he were totally whole.

Realizing that this activity, even with his handicap, was his way of making a living instead of begging, I felt compassionate. After a few moments I walked over to him and offered him some money. He smiled and said, "Thank you. I will pray for you and your kindness."

I could only smile back for my eyes were filled with tears prompted by the beauty and pride of this man who refused to become a beggar. As I entered the church, I thought of all the healthy people in Saipan that every month stand in line with their hands out for food stamps. I sat in the church and mediated upon this. I had just witnessed a brave handicapped man who knows that he must help himself if he is to survive. He refuses to become a burden on the state. I have read and heard about handicapped people doing outstanding achievements, but I had never seen one until now.

Flashes of other handicapped people who had overcome their disabilities popped into my mind. There is Stephan Hawkins, almost totally paralyzed, yet is considered the greatest scientist of the 20th century after Einstein. I was reminded of Helen Keller who though blind and deaf was the first person to earn a bachelor of science degree. Beethoven, though deaf, went on to compose some of the world's most beloved music. There are thousands of such people who daily fight against great physical or mental handicaps, refusing to become wards of the state. Here before me was such a man.

About an hour later, I returned to the hospital to finish my medical checkup. I still felt inspired from having witnessed this brave man earlier in the day. The more I thought about him the sadder I became. Visions of the huge numbers of people in America and in our beloved CNMI who refuse to help themselves, though healthy, flashed before me. They want the state to support them. They don't want to work.

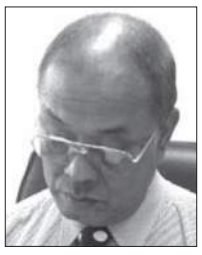
In the CNMI, we have over 11,000 food stamp recipients and growing, out of an estimated population of 50,000. In November 2012, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported that a record 47,102,780 individuals received food stamps. Since January 2009, the number of individuals on food stamps has skyrocketed from 31.9 million to the current record high 47.1 million. By comparison in 1969, just 2.8 million Americans received food stamps.

Last year, the food stamp program cost taxpayers $72 billion, more than double the $30 billion spent four years earlier. Today, one of every seven Americans receives food stamps! Where are we

See WORK on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Failure of minimum wage



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Whenever the minimum wage issue is placed on the table, wage earners at this level salivate at the opportunity to see it implemented, given the deepening economic depression or subterranean sluggish economy. *While the aspiration is justified, there's the greater need to realistically review its antecedent, especially the dire consequence that comes with it.*

Just so we communicate with clarity on this issue, I am assuming that you have your own family business, working 18-hour work days to make some marginal profits. As industrious as you may be, there's still a major hurdle you face daily: Prohibitive cost of utilities! You sit alone most evening engaged in what Einstein calls insanity—juggling the same figures hoping for different results—one plus one is three. Never!

In the midst of persistent economic contraction, you still must pay for your employees' salaries, health insurance, higher fuel at the gas pump, housing and utilities, business supplies, and taxes. You review your financial statement at month's end only to come way short of funds to meet your expenses. Soon these expenses begin coming out from your savings or pension. It's time to close shop or sink deep in debt.

Then there's the federal imposition of higher federal minimum wage, another layer of hefty expense for any and all small businesses here. In a woefully unhealthy business climate can you really work the clock to find extras to cover this imposition? Our next pit stop would have to be the Marianas Trench, right? Either we find extras there or simply dump the entire business venture at the floor of the trench. Let the strange creatures downstairs devour it!

A study from CATO Institute says that while the aim is to help workers, "decades of economic research show that minimum wages usually end up harming workers and the broader economy. Minimum wages particularly stifle job opportunities for low-skill workers, youth, and minorities, which are the groups that policymakers are often trying to help with these policies.

"There is no 'free lunch' when the government mandates a minimum wage. If the government requires that certain workers be paid higher wages, then businesses make adjustments to pay for the added costs, such as reducing hiring, cutting employee work hours, reducing benefits, and charging higher prices. Some policymakers may believe that companies simply absorb the costs of minimum wage increases through reduced profits, but that's rarely the case. Instead, businesses rationally respond to such mandates by cutting employment and making other decisions to maintain their net earnings. These behavioral responses usually offset the positive labor market results that policymakers are hoping for.

"Some federal and state policymakers are currently considering increases in minimum wages, but such policy changes would be particularly damaging in today's sluggish economy. Instead, federal and state governments should focus on policies that generate faster economic growth, which would generate rising wages and more opportunities for all workers."

Who is paid the minimum wage?

"Supporters of minimum wages might believe that these laws mainly help to boost the incomes of full-time adult workers in low-income families, some of whom are supporting children. However, the data generally do not support that view. Most workers earning the minimum wage are young workers, part-time workers, or workers from non-poor families.

"According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1.8 million paid-hourly employees were paid the federal minimum wage of $7.25 in 2010.5. These 1.8 million employees can be broken down into two broad groups:

- Roughly half (49.0 percent) are teenagers or young adults aged 24 or under. A large majority (62.2 percent) of this group live in families with incomes two or more times the official poverty level. Looking just at the families of teenaged minimum wage workers, the average income is almost $70,600, and only 16.8 percent are below the poverty line. Note that the federal minimum wage applies to workers of all ages.
- The other half (51.0 percent) are aged 25 and up. More of these workers live in poor families (29.2 percent) or near the poverty level (46.2 percent had family incomes less than 1.5 times the poverty level). However, even within this half of all minimum wage employees, 24.8 percent voluntarily work part-time, and just 34.3 percent are full-time full-year employees.

"Only 20.8 percent of all minimum wage workers are family heads or spouses working full time, 30.8 percent were children, and 32.2 percent are young Americans enrolled in school. The popular belief that minimum wage workers are poor adults (25 years old or older), working full time and trying to raise a family is largely untrue. Just 4.7 percent match that description. Indeed, many minimum wage workers live in families with incomes well above the poverty level."

In the NMI, minimum wage workers are found mostly in private industries, the most productive sector struggling to survive the fatal effects of highly prohibitive utility costs. Piling additional imposition in statutory MW isn't going to help them survive in a woefully poor business climate. This and other taxes and ill-fated stifling regulations are regressive at best. The idea of encouraging reinvestment in hopes of raising more revenues would exact the complete opposite. It's something to seriously ponder.

■■■

There were complaints in recent past from tourists who quiz, "I pay you 5 percent more after I've bought my ticket with family to visit your island. On top of that you also charge $5 to visit Managaha Island and other fees?" We just lost repeat visitors! Well, I seriously doubt that we could tax our way to wealth and *not* in a woefully depressed economy. Hello! Anybody home?

WORK

From Page 10

headed with this food stamp program? From a nation of independence we have become a nation of dependence. Are we becoming a nation of beggars? Think about it. Great nations rarely explode; they implode. Have we become too fat and lazy to work? Let someone else feed us.

It is not my intention to criticize neither the food stamp program nor its recipients. The problem will take care of itself and we will not like the end results. I am more concerned how it is slowly destroying our dignity and sense of pride when we do not produce with our hands.

Work is more than trying to earn a living. It involves an activity that can be enjoyable and productive. Work can be for oneself or for others. But we must work and become a contributing member of our society. Think what would happen if we all refused to work. Think also of the number of people who we never see but help us to live a better life by working to supply our needs. We need each other and must work together.

The stranger I witnessed in the Philippines pushing a cart with his leg cut below the knee exemplifies the true meaning of pride and dignity of work. I will always remember him when I get tired and disgusted with my job. May God grant him continuing strength and courage to continue his work. And may God help us as we fall deeper into a society of dependency instead of independence. Our thought for the day: What will happen when the producers stop and also become dependents? Have a great week!

'The Earhart Enigma' offers compelling evidence for Saipan connection

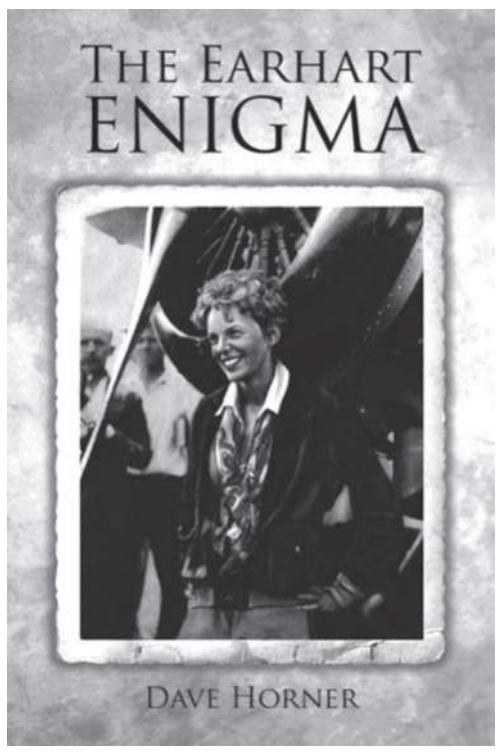
Reviewed by
WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is a forensic economist, historian, and military cartographer.

Much has been written about the famous female pilot, Amelia Earhart, with speculation about a possible Saipan connection. This unresolved saga has remained an enigma wrapped in a riddle and has continued to intrigue many for more than seven decades.

Now, the successful treasure salvor and researcher, Dave Horner, presents compelling evidence regarding the mystery surrounding her disappearance in his new book, *The Earhart Enigma* (Pelican Publishing).

The period addressed was a time when Saipan was under the control of the Japanese and four years before the outbreak of the war in the Pacific. It was a period when the islands of Micronesia, then known as the Japanese Mandated Islands of which Saipan was a major part, were closed to all American vessels and aircraft by Japanese authorities. Her flight within the Western Pacific occurred at the same time a belligerent Japan started a war with China.



Dave Horner takes us on a journey of painstaking research across the vast expanse of the Pacific while exhibiting the tenacity of a detective following the scent of a twisting, watery trail of compelling evidence surrounding a mystery of more than seven decades concerning the fascinating saga of Amelia Earhart, America's most famous aviatrix.

It has been theorized by many that Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, having failed to reach their destination of Howland Island located several thousand miles southeast of the Marianas, ran out of fuel or experienced a mechanical problem and either went into the water or crashed on an atoll and were later picked up by the Japanese and taken first to the Marshall Islands and later to Saipan since it was the closest major developed Japanese Mandated island to Japan's home islands 1,300 miles northwest.

At the time of Earhart's flight in 1937, a local island child of, say, 8 years of age and likely to recall any island discussion of the unusual appearance on Saipan of a Caucasian woman rumored to have been a pilot, would be 84 years old if still alive today.

The many accounts of the mystery as to what happened to Earhart have necessarily relied upon the memory of those who claim to have some knowledge of this famous aviation legend, usually recounted from a now departed relative or acquaintance.

The author's extremely thorough research includes such interviews with many Saipan residents.

Horner's book contains documents never before seen by the public and includes quoted oral testimony never widely evaluated.

A rich and absorbing trove of letters, cables, and notes relating to the search effort for the missing aircraft and Earhart will certainly make this monumental work the undisputed authority on this continuing mystery. A saga that has contributed to Saipan's position in the annals of American aviation history.

Dave Horner's compelling evaluation must be recognized as the undisputed authority on this engaging aviation legend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

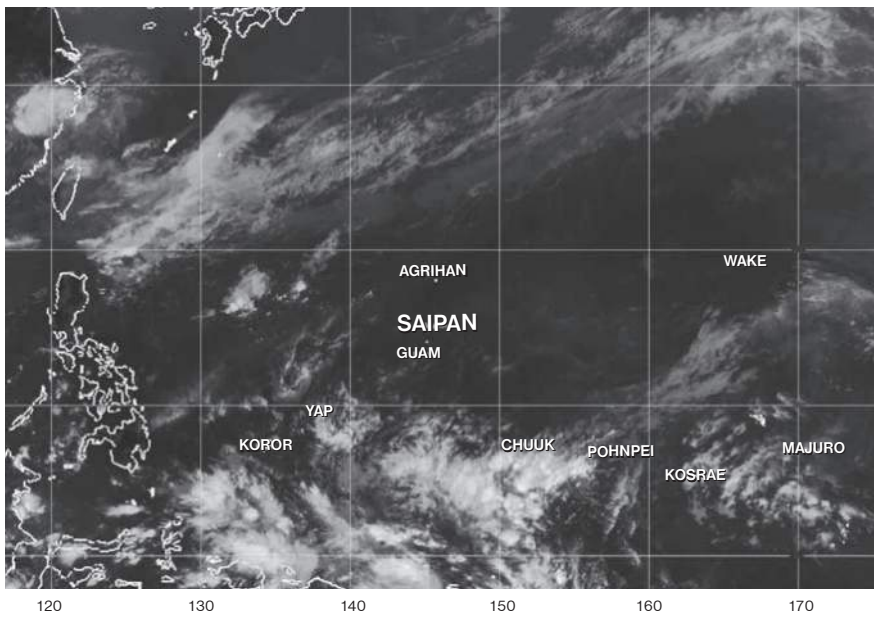
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲89	▼81
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲91	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼81
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼80
Kosrae	Showers	▲85	▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲70	▼63
Beijing	Sunny	▲75	▼51
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲78	▼76
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼73
London	Showers	▲53	▼40
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲78	▼60
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲96	▼83
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼50
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼73
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲67	▼50
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼61
Paris	Cloudy	▲53	▼45
Pusan	Showers	▲65	▼53
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼66
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼51
San Francisco	Sunny	▲73	▼56
Seoul	Showers	▲61	▼47
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼59
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲68	▼56

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front stretches southwestward from north of Minami Tori Shima at 25N154E to north of the Mariana Islands at 22N145E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 19N. Low cloudiness and scattered showers are present along and north of this boundary to beyond 25N. A near-equatorial trough extends southeastward from 6N130E through a weak circulation centered at 2N143E to EQ148E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring south of Palau and Yap south of a line from 6N130E to 5N134E to EQ145E and southwest of Chuuk in the area bounded by 6N142E to 7N155E to EQ150E back to 6N142E. A weak trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the area bounded by Kosrae to west of Majuro at 7N170E to 2N178E to 1N168E back to Kosrae.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:15 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
10:13 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
5:33 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:55 AM	6:34 PM
Tuesday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Wednesday	5:54 AM	6:35 PM
Thursday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM
Friday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:09 PM	8:50 AM
Tuesday	11:07 PM	9:52 AM
Wednesday	11:59 PM	10:53 AM
Thursday		11:52 AM
Friday	12:48 AM	12:49 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 4, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:45am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:05am	12:45am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

2013 Marianas March Against Cancer

PHOTOS BY CLARISSA V. DAVID

Team Tan Holdings/Kagman High School receive their certificate of participation.

Team Bodig takes home the Best Baton award.

Best Tent award goes to Team Talaabwogh Star.

Team IT&E/SSHS wins the Most Spirit award.

Team Bodig wins Most Money Raised in Pulan category with $15,940.93.

Mount Carmel School is hailed the team with the most money raised in the Napu category.

Team DHS raises the most money in Atdao category.

Team Bodig earns the Most Luminaries award.

Raising the most money in the Puti'un category is Team PIC.

Inspirational speaker Maggie Deleon Guerrero Wonenberg is flanked by her family members after delivering her remarks.

Survivors smile for the camera following their walk.

Members of the 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee wear big smiles as the fundraiser concluded.

DESPITE FINDINGS OF IMPROPER PAYMENTS TO CERTAIN INSTRUCTORS

NMC approves 'bonus' for faculty teaching new courses

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Some instructional faculty members at the Northern Marianas College received a "bonus" for handling new courses, despite being disallowed under NMC's policy and regulations.

Due to this allegedly improper payment, the college has spent a significant amount covering a number of faculty members, majority of whom are new hires.

This un-budgeted expenditure is expected to increase following NMC president Sharon Y. Hart's approval to apply the compensation across all departments.

The issue about the "overload compensation" was investigated by the college after some instructors at the School of Education were retroactively approved extra compensation for new courses they are teaching, making reference to Board of Regents HR Policy 4020a and Faculty Contract Section III. The instructors' request was made through dean of Academics Barbara Merfalen.

Documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune* show that Hart, in her memorandum last March 22 to faculty members, admitted that the employment contract of instructional faculty makes no reference to additional credit being given for teaching new courses.

She disclosed that the management has also audited a sample of personnel files of faculty members who in the past have received compensation for overloads to determine whether there was any evidence of such compensation being tied to the teaching of "new courses."

"While there appears to be no historical practice, no policy, and no obligation to award overload credit when an instructor teacher a particular course for the first time, we must face the fact that the dean of Academic Programs and Services, apparently acting under a good faith belief that the contract required these credits to be given and any overloads resulting thereon be compensated, in fact committed the institution to make payment for courses taught for the first time by an instructor between 2010 and 2012 in at least one program or department," stated the president's memorandum.

Hart said it is the recommendation of the HR director and the dean of administration that the college honor Merfalen's commitment at this time and make payment for any resulting overloads, but that the college do so in an equitable manner across all departments.

The president's memo served as her concurrence with this recommendation but pointed out that this payment will not include non-instructional overloads.

"My decision will apply to all instructors who taught new courses during the stated time period, not just the School of Education," Hart stated.

She instructed the HRO to make the payments to affected employees by March 29, 2013.

Meantime, Merfalen took responsibility for her "action" as stated in her letter to faculty members last April 4. She admitted "misinterpreting" the policy and bared plans to implement a corrective action soon. She said there was no intention to leave out the ones who have been at NMC for a long time, but to make good on the commitment that HRO said she made as dean.

Hart's decision to concur with Merfalen's action was described by faculty member Wil Maui as "poor judgment" on the president's part.

In his letter to Hart, Maui indicated that paying only those instructors who taught a course for the first time between fall 2010 and fall 2012 is discriminatory, unfair, and excludes many such as himself.

The faculty also questioned the source of money to be used in paying out these bonuses when the college in fall 2012 asked some staff to teach some classes for free due to the financial challenges of the college.

NHSC recertifies public hospital

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has been recertified as a National Health Service Corps-approved site after making good marks during a site visit by the federal group last year.

This was confirmed yesterday by both corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta and COO Esther Muña, who both welcomed the good news received.

The National Health Service Corps is administered by the Health Resources and Service Administration, which supports qualified health care providers dedicated to working in areas of the U.S. with limited access to care.

The CHCC recertification was relayed by Capt. W. Gary Hlady, the regional supervisor of the Bureau of Clinician Recruitment and Service in an email to the corporation officials. The recertification is set to expire on April 15, 2016.

NHSC's site approval, according to Hlady, is contingent upon continued compliance with the NHSC Site Agreement. With this approval, otherwise eligible CHCC clinicians may apply for the NHSC Loan Repayment Program and the CHCC may recruit NHSC scholars.

Muña said the recertification is a big thing for the corporation, which is experiencing a shortage in physicians.

"Recertification…not only allows us to retain our current NHSC clinicians, it allows us to recruit additional ones. And for our sons and daughters who become an NHSC-eligible health care professional, CHCC becomes a great option for employment because they can have a huge portion of their educational loan paid by NHSC," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

Dr. Daniel Lamar, medical director for the Division of Public Health, lauded the guidance NHSC provided during the group's site visit last year and all the support given to help CHCC achieve recertification.

"We appreciate that NHSC site approval is contingent upon continued compliance and we will be diligent in our efforts in this regard. We look forward to your continued support and guidance during this new recertification period," stated Lamar in an email.

Based on the NHSC website, over 10.4 million people are currently receiving health care from NHSC clinicians across the country.

The NHSC repays educational loans and provides scholarships to primary care health care providers who practice in areas of the country that have too few health care professionals to serve people who live there. As of Sept. 30, 2012, nearly 10,000 primary care physicians, physician assistants, dentists, dental hygienists, nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives, and behavioral health professionals are working in these areas.

Ex-DCCA secretary Faisao now with grants management

Former Department of Community and Cultural Affairs secretary Melvin Faisao is back in government, this time as a staffer at the CNMI Office of Grants Management.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, when asked for comment on Friday, said he has not seen the paperwork yet for Faisao but said the latter will be focusing mainly on grants that DCCA has been applying for. These include federal grants on older Americans, historic preservation, food stamp and childcare, among other things.

Faisao

"I don't know exactly when [the beginning of Faisao's employment is] but we're up against the wall as far as those grants that have to be submitted and worked on…" Inos told reporters on Friday. He said Faisao, as former DCCA secretary, had worked on those grant applications.

Some lawmakers have expressed reservations about Faisao's qualifications and government reemployment.

Rose Mondala, former director of DCCA's Office on Aging, has been reassigned to work on specific grants that the office receives. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

19 fires in 3-year period were intentional

» Inos, Hofschneider sign 7 DPS, DOC proclamations

Officials and officers from the Department of Public Safety, Department of Corrections and from other law enforcement agencies applaud after Gov. Eloy S. Inos signs seven proclamations on Friday.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Between 2011 to 2013, an estimated 19 fires were intentionally set at residential and commercial buildings in the CNMI, according to arson investigator Nadia Saralu.

Saralu said that between 2000 to 2010, an estimated 16,800 fires were intentionally set off in residential and commercial buildings each year in the United States.

"These fires resulted in an estimated 280 deaths, 775 injuries, and $593 million in property loss each year," said Saralu, reading a proclamation for CNMI Arson Awareness Week on Friday in the governor's conference room.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider signed the proclamation declaring May 5 to 11 as CNMI Arson Awareness Week.

At the same ceremony, Inos and Hofschneider signed six other proclamations—May 19 to 25 as Emergency Medical Services Week, May 12 as Emergency Medical Services for Children Day, May 20 to June 2 as Click it or Ticket Enforcement Mobilization Campaign Week, May 12 to 18 as CNMI Safe Boating Week, May 15 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day, and May 1 to 7 as Correctional Officers and Personnel Week. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Business

FAA: Air traffic system soon at full operation

NEW YORK (AP)—The Federal Aviation Administration said that the U.S. air traffic system will resume normal operations by Sunday evening after lawmakers rushed a bill through Congress allowing the agency to withdraw furloughs of air traffic controllers and other workers.

The FAA said Saturday that it has suspended all employee furloughs and that traffic facilities will begin returning to regular staffing levels over the next 24 hours. The furloughs were fallout from the $85 billion in automatic-across-the-board spending cuts this spring. The bill, passed on Friday, allows the FAA to move as much as $253 million within its budget to areas that will allow it to prevent reduced operations and staffing.

The furloughs started to hit air traffic controllers this past week, causing flight delays that left thousands of travelers frustrated and furious. Planes were forced to take off and land less frequently, so as not to overload the remaining controllers on duty.

The FAA had no choice but to cut $637 million as its share of $85 billion in automatic, government-wide spending cuts that must be achieved by the end of the federal budget year on Sept. 30.

Flight delays piled up across the country Sunday and Monday of this week as the FAA kept planes on the ground because there weren't enough controllers to monitor busy air corridors. Cascading delays held up flights at some of nation's busiest airports, including New York, Baltimore and Washington. Delta Air Lines canceled about 90 flights Monday because of worries about delays. Just about every passenger was rebooked on another Delta flight within a couple of hours. Air travel was smoother Tuesday.

Things could have been worse. A lot of people who had planned to fly this week changed their plans when they heard that air travel might be difficult, according to longtime aviation consultant Daniel Kasper of Compass Lexicon.

"Essentially what happened from an airline's perspective is that people who were going to travel didn't travel," he said. But canceled flights likely led to lost revenue for airlines. Even if they didn't have to incur some of costs of fueling up planes and getting them off the ground, crews that were already scheduled to work still had to paid.

"One week isn't going to kill them, but had it gone on much longer, it would have been a significant hit on their revenues and profits," Kasper said.

Obama: Flight delay fix a 'Band-Aid'

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama says the congressional fix for widespread flight delays is an irresponsible way to govern, but he's prepared to sign the legislation that lawmakers fast-tracked.

He says the bipartisan bill to end furloughs of air traffic controllers is a "Band-Aid" solution rather than a lasting answer to this year's $85 billion in across-the-board spending cuts known as the sequester.

The cuts have affected all federal agencies, and flight delays last week left thousands of travelers frustrated and furious and Congress feeling pressured to respond.

The Federal Aviation Administration announced Saturday that it had suspended all employee furloughs and that air traffic facilities would begin returning to regular staffing levels over the next 24 hours.

The FAA's statement said the air traffic system would resume normal operations by Sunday evening.

"Republicans claimed victory when the sequester first took effect, and now they've decided it was a bad idea all along," Obama said in his weekly radio and Internet address, aired Saturday.

He singled out the GOP even though the bill passed with overwhelming Democratic support in both the House and Senate.

The president scolded lawmakers for helping the Federal Aviation Administration while doing nothing to replace other cuts that he said harm federal employees, unemployed workers and preschoolers in Head Start.

"Maybe because they fly home each weekend, the members of Congress who insisted these cuts take hold finally realized that they actually apply to them, too," Obama said.

Rushed through Congress with remarkable speed, the bill marked a shift for Democrats who had hoped the impact of the cuts would increase pressure on Republicans to reverse the broad cuts.

Republicans have rejected Obama's proposal to replace the spending reductions with a mix of spending cuts and tax increases.

"There are some in the Obama administration who thought inflicting pain on the public would give the president more leverage to avoid making necessary spending cuts, and to impose more tax hikes on the American people," said Rep. Bill Shuster of Pennsylvania in the Republican address.

Shuster, chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said the FAA could have averted the flight delays on its own by cutting costs elsewhere and rejiggering work schedules, but chose not to do so.

The bill signed by Obama would let the FAA use up to $253 million from an airport improvement program and other accounts to halt the furloughs through the Sept. 30 end of the government's fiscal year.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Boeing says new battery system ensures 787 safety

TOKYO (AP)—Boeing Co.'s chief engineer for the 787 Dreamliner said Saturday that changes to the lithium-ion battery system are fully sufficient to ensure the aircraft's safety, although the company has been unable to find the cause of the original battery failures earlier this year that led to groundings of the plane worldwide since mid-January. Michael Sinnett gave a briefing on the revamped battery to reporters in Tokyo after Japanese and U.S. regulators gave carriers permission to resume 787 flights once battery modifications are made. The new battery system is designed to prevent a fire, and to contain one should it occur with an "enclosure," a casing around the battery to prevent heat from being released in the aircraft, Sinnett told a news conference in Tokyo.

Last groups of SKoreans leave NKorean factory

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The final group of South Koreans working in a shuttered factory park in North Korea is expected to leave Monday after their government ordered them to leave the border city, as Pyongyang issued a new threat to shut down the last symbol of detente. The group will follow a similar group that left Saturday after stuffing their cars with as much as they could take from their factories in the North Korean city of Kaesong, located just on the other side of the Demilitarized Zone dividing the two Koreas. A total of 125 South Koreans left Saturday, and the last 50, including those who manage the facilities, will leave Monday, the Unification Ministry said. Once the last South Koreans leave, what will become of the jointly run factory park remains unclear.

Nation

Investigators push ahead in Boston bombing probe

AP

This April 25, 2013 file photo shows the mother of the two Boston bombing suspects, Zubeidat Tsarnaeva, left, speaking at a news conference in Makhachkala, the southern Russian province of Dagestan.

BOSTON (AP)—With the Boston marathon bombing suspect in a prison hospital, investigators are pushing forward in the U.S. and abroad to piece together the myriad details of a plot that killed three people and injured more than 260.

FBI agents have wrapped up a two-day search at a landfill near the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, where 19-year-old suspect, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, was a sophomore. FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller wouldn't say what investigators were looking for or whether they recovered anything from the landfill before the search ended Friday.

A federal law enforcement official not authorized to speak on the record about the investigation told The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity on Friday that the FBI was gathering evidence regarding "everything imaginable."

Meanwhile, U.S. officials said the bombing suspects' mother had been added to a federal terrorism database about 18 months before the April 15 attack—a disclosure that deepens the mystery around the Tsarnaev family and marks the first time American authorities have acknowledged that Zubeidat Tsarnaeva was under investigation before the tragedy.

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev is charged with joining with his older brother, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, now dead, in setting off the shrapnel-packed pressure-cooker bombs. The brothers are ethnic Chechens from Russia who came to the United States about a decade ago with their parents.

Obama jokes about radical 2nd term changes

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama joked Saturday about his plans for a radical second-term evolution from a "strapping young Muslim Socialist" to retiree golfer, all with a new hairstyle like first lady Michelle's.

Obama used this year's annual White House Correspondents' Association dinner to poke fun at himself and some of his political adversaries, asking if it was still possible to be brought down a peg after 4 1/2 years as commander-in-chief.

Entering to the rap track "All I Do Is Win" by DJ Khaled, Obama joked about how reelection would allow him to unleash a radical agenda. But then he showed a picture of himself golfing on a mock magazine cover of "Senior Leisure."

"I'm not the strapping young Muslim Socialist that I used to be," the president remarked, and then recounted his recent 2-for-22 basketball shooting performance at the White House Easter Egg hunt.

But Obama's most dramatic shift for the next four years appeared to be aesthetic. He presented a montage of shots featuring him with bangs similar to those sometimes sported by his wife.

Obama closed by noting the nation's recent tragedies in Massachusetts and Texas, praising Americans of all stripes from first responders to local journalists for serving the public good.

ACROSS THE NATION

Miss. man charged in suspicious letters case

BRANDON, Miss. (AP)—An ex-martial arts instructor made ricin and put the poison in letters to President Barack Obama and others, the FBI charged Saturday, days after dropping similar charges against an Elvis impersonator who insisted he had been framed. The arrest of 41-year-old James Everett Dutschke early Saturday capped a week in which investigators initially zeroed in on a rival of Dutschke's, then decided they had the wrong man. The hunt for a suspect revealed tie after small-town tie between the two men and the 80-year-old county judge who, along with Obama and U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker of Mississippi, was among the targets of the letters. Dutschke's house, business and vehicles in Tupelo were searched earlier in the week often by crews in hazardous materials suits and he had been under surveillance.

Part found near WTC from type of jet hijacked 9/11

NEW YORK (AP)—A rusted piece of airplane landing gear discovered wedged between a mosque and an apartment building and believed to be from one of the hijacked planes that destroyed the nearby World Trade Center on Sept. 11 has been confirmed as coming from the type of Boeing jet used in the attacks. Police said Saturday that detectives had been in contact with officials at Chicago-based Boeing Co. who confirmed the wreckage was from a Boeing 767. Police have said the landing gear had a clearly visible Boeing identification number. The American Airlines and United Airlines planes hijacked by Islamic extremists in 2001 were Boeing 767s. Boeing spokesman John Dern said he could not confirm whether the ID matched the American Airlines plane or the United Airlines plane.

Asia

Bangladesh building collapse death toll hits 362

SAVAR, Bangladesh (AP)—Bangladesh rescuers on Sunday located nine people alive inside the rubble of a multi-story building that collapsed five days ago, as authorities announced they will now use heavy equipment to drill a central hole from the top to look for survivors and dead bodies.

At least 362 people are confirmed dead in the collapse of the 8-story building that housed five garment factories. The death toll is expected to rise further, but it is already the deadliest tragedy to hit Bangladesh's garment industry, which is worth $20 billion annually and a mainstay of the economy.

Wednesday's collapse and previous disasters in garment factories have focused attention on the poor working conditions of workers who toil for as little as $38 a month to produce clothing for top international brands.

Army Maj. Gen. Chowdhury Hasan Suhrawardy, the coordinator of the rescue operations, said they will try to save the nine people first by manually shifting concrete blocks with the help of light equipment such as pick axes and shovels.

"But if we fail we will start our next phase within hours," which would involve manual efforts as well as heavy equipment, including hydraulic cranes and cutters to bore a hole from the top of the collapsed building, he told reporters.

The purpose is to "continue the operation to recover both survivors and dead bodies. In this stage, we have no other choice but to use some heavy equipment. We will start it within a few hours. Manual operation and use of small equipment is not enough," he said.

The work will be carried out carefully so as not to mutilate

bodies, he said. All the equipment is in place, "from a small blade to everything. We have engaged many private sector companies which supplied us equipment, even some heavy ones."

In rare good news, a female worker was pulled out alive on Sunday. Hasan Akbari, a rescuer, said when he tried to extricate a man next to the woman, "he said his body was being torn apart. So I had to let go. But God willing, we will be able to rescue him with more help very soon."

On Saturday, police took six people into custody, including three owners of two factories who were placed under arrest. Also under detention are the wife of the building owner who is on the run and two government engineers who were involved in giving approval for the building design. The owner had the approval to construct five floors but he added three more illegally.

A huge crack appeared in the building, Rana Plaza, on Tuesday, but the owner, Mohammed Sohel Rana, assured tenants it was safe to go inside. A bank and some shops on the first floor shut their premises on Wednesday after police ordered an evacuation, but managers of the garment factories on the upper floor told workers to continue their shifts.

Hours later the Rana Plaza was reduced to rubble, and most victims were crushed by massive blocks of concrete and mortar falling on them. A garment manufacturers' group said the factories in the building employed 3,122 workers, but it was not clear how many were inside it when it collapsed. About 2,500 survivors have been accounted for.

Working round-the-clock, rescuers have used bare hands and shovels, passing chunks of brick and concrete down a human chain away from the collapsed structure. On the ground, mixed in the debris were several pairs of pink cotton pants, a mud-covered navy blue sock and a pile of green uncut fabric.

The badly decomposed bodies pulled out of the rubble were kept at a makeshift morgue at the nearby Adharchandra High School before being handed over to families. Many people milled around at the school, waving photos of their missing loved ones.

Among those arrested are Bazlus Samad, managing director of New Wave Apparels Ltd., and Mahmudur Rahman Tapash, the company chairman, and Aminul Islam, chairman of Phantom Apparels Ltd. Rana, the building owner, was a local leader of ruling Awami League's youth front. His arrest, and that of the factory owners, was ordered by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is also the Awami League leader.

The disaster is the worst ever for the country's booming and powerful garment industry, surpassing a fire five months ago that killed 112 people and brought widespread pledges to improve worker-safety standards.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Sovereign day in Japan, another nationalist move

TOKYO (AP)—Japan has officially marked the day it regained sovereignty 61 years ago following its World War II defeat, as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government steps up its nationalist campaign. Abe is shifting to a more conservative agenda from economic policy. Sunday's event is seen as a step to drum up support for revising Japan's U.S.-inspired pacifist constitution. During Sunday's ceremony, Abe pledged to make Japan a stronger country with national pride. Visits by several ministers and nearly 170 lawmakers to Tokyo's war shrine this month have enraged China and South Korea. Abe's remarks perceived as whitewashing Japan's wartime aggression further infuriated those countries.

NY man wanted in 2 Philippines killings arrested

ALBANY, New York (AP)—Police in New York say they arrested a fugitive accused of the 2011 killings of an ex-British police officer and the officer's girlfriend in the Philippines. State Police Capt. Timothy Munro said Friday that troopers worked with the FBI and Interpol to track down 35-year-old Timothy Noah Kaufman. They arrested him Wednesday without incident. The National Bureau of Investigation in the Philippines says Kaufman and two other men shot to death 54-year-old David Balmer and his 26-year-old girlfriend, Elma de Guia, as they slept in the home of Balmer's business partner in Angeles City in September 2011. The NBI says the two were shot multiple times. Kaufman was turned over to U.S. Marshals and faces an extradition hearing on May 9.

Gunmen kill 13 in Philippine political violence

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Gunmen attacked a truck carrying a southern Philippine mayor and his supporters and killed 13 people including his daughter, police said Friday. The mayor and nine others were wounded in the country's worst violence in campaigning for May elections. Nunungan Mayor Abdul Manamparan and his political supporters were riding back from a campaign rally when they were ambushed late Thursday on a remote mountain road, Lanao del Norte provincial police chief Gerardo Rosales said. About 15 unidentified gunmen carried out the attack, Rosales said. Police investigators suspect that they belong to a rival clan.

World

Russia caught bomb suspect on wiretap

WASHINGTON (AP)—Russian authorities secretly recorded a telephone conversation in 2011 in which one of the Boston bombing suspects vaguely discussed jihad with his mother, officials said Saturday, days after the U.S. government finally received details about the call.

In another conversation, the mother of now-dead bombing suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev was recorded talking to someone in southern Russia who is under FBI investigation in an unrelated case, officials said.

The conversations are significant because, had they been revealed earlier, they might have been enough evidence for the FBI to initiate a more thorough investigation of the Tsarnaev family.

As it was, Russian authorities told the FBI only that they had concerns that Tamerlan and his mother were religious extremists. With no additional information, the FBI conducted a limited inquiry and closed the case in June 2011.

Two years later, authorities say Tamerlan and his brother, Dzhohkar, detonated two homemade bombs near the finish line of the Boston Marathon, killing three and injuring more than 260. Tamerlan was killed in a police shootout and Dzhohkar is under arrest.

In the past week, Russian authorities turned over to the United States information it had on Tamerlan and his mother, Zubeidat Tsarnaeva. The Tsarnaevs are ethnic Chechens who emigrated from southern Russia to the Boston area over the past 11 years.

Even had the FBI received the information from the Russian wiretaps earlier, it's not clear that the government could have prevented the attack.

In early 2011, the Russian FSB internal security service intercepted a conversation between Tamerlan and his mother vaguely discussing jihad, according to U.S. officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the investigation with reporters.

The two discussed the possibility of Tamerlan going to Palestine, but he told his mother he didn't speak the language there, according to the officials, who reviewed the information Russia shared with the U.S.

In a second call, Zubeidat Tsarnaeva spoke with a man in the Caucasus region of Russia who was under FBI investigation. Jacqueline Maguire, a spokeswoman for the FBI's Washington Field Office, where that investigation was based, declined to comment.

There was no information in the conversation that suggested a plot inside the United States, officials said.

It was not immediately clear why Russian authorities didn't share more information at the time. It is not unusual for countries, including the U.S., to be cagey with foreign authorities about what intelligence is being collected.

Nobody was available to discuss the matter early Sunday at FSB offices in Moscow.

Jim Treacy, the FBI's legal attache in Moscow between 2007 and 2009, said the Russians long asked for U.S. assistance regarding Chechen activity in the United States that might be related to terrorism.

"On any given day, you can get some very good cooperation," Treacy said. "The next you might find yourself totally shut out."

Zubeidat Tsarnaeva has denied that she or her sons were involved in terrorism. She has said she believed her sons have been framed by U.S. authorities.

Leftist priests: Francis can fix church 'in ruins'

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—A new pope from Latin America known for ministering to the poor in his country's slums is raising the hopes of advocates of liberation theology, whose leftist social activism had alarmed previous pontiffs.

Prominent liberation theologian Leonardo Boff said Pope Francis has what it takes to fix a church "in ruins" and shares his movement's commitment to building a church for the world's poor.

"With this pope, a Jesuit and a pope from the Third World, we can breathe happiness," Boff said Saturday at a Buenos Aires book fair. "Pope Francis has both the vigor and tenderness that we need to create a new spiritual world."

The 74-year-old Brazilian theologian was pressured to remain silent by previous popes who tried to draw a hard line between socially active priests and leftist politics. As Argentina's leading cardinal before he became pope, Francis reinforced this line, suggesting in 2010 that reading the Gospel with a Marxist interpretation only gets priests in trouble.

But Boff says the label of a closed-minded conservative simply doesn't fit with Francis.

"Pope Francis comes with the perspective that many of us in Latin America share. In our churches we do not just discuss theological theories, like in European churches. Our churches work together to support universal causes, causes like human rights, from the perspective of the poor, the destiny of humanity that is suffering, services for people living on the margins."

The liberation theology movement, which seeks to free lives as well as souls, emerged in the 1960s and quickly spread, especially in Latin America. Priests and church laypeople became deeply involved in human rights and social struggles. Some were caught up in clashes between repressive governments and rebels, sometimes at the cost of their lives.

The movement's martyrs include El Salvador's Archbishop Oscar Romero, whose increasing criticism of his country's military-run government provoked his assassination as he was saying Mass in 1980. He was killed by thugs connected to the military hierarchy a day after he preached that "no soldier is obliged to obey an order that is contrary to the will of God." His killing presaged a civil war that killed nearly 90,000 over the next 12 years.

Romero's beatification cause languished under popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI due to their opposition to liberation theology, but he was put back on track to becoming a saint days after Francis became pope.

Israel responds to Gaza rocket fire with airstrike

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's military says its aircraft hit Hamas targets in Gaza after militants there fired rockets at southern Israel.

The military said it struck "a terrorist weapon storage facility and a Hamas training installation" early Sunday. Gaza health officials said nobody was hurt.

The military said it was responding to Gaza rockets fired at Israel the night before that landed in an open field causing no injuries.

Gaza attacks on Israel have declined since a military campaign in November, but sporadic fire persists.

Israel holds Gaza's militant Hamas rulers responsible for all attacks from the territory.

A shadowy extremist Muslim Salafi group was behind recent attacks, including one last month.

Hamas sees the Salafis as a threat to its rule while Salafis view Hamas as too moderate.

Focus

Pyongyang glitters but most of NKorea still dark

By JEAN H. LEE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP
In this Feb. 21, 2013 photo, North Kroeans walk on a sidewalk under brightly lit apartment buildings on the new Changjon Street in Pyongyang, North Korea.

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—The heart of this city, once famous for its Dickensian darkness, now pulsates with neon.

Glossy new construction downtown has altered the Pyongyang skyline. Inside supermarkets where shopgirls wear faux French designer labels, people with money can buy Italian wine, Swiss chocolates, kiwifruit imported from New Zealand and fresh-baked croissants. They can get facials, lie in tanning booths, play a round of mini golf or sip cappuccinos.

Nearly 2 million people are using cell phones. Computer shops can't keep up with demand for North Korea's locally distributed tablet computer, popularly known here as "iPads." A shiny new cancer institute features a $900,000 X-ray machine imported from Europe.

Pyongyang has long been a city apart from the rest of North Korea, the showcase capital dubbed a "socialist fairyland" by state media.

But a year after new leader Kim Jong Un promised publicly to bring an end to the "era of belt-tightening" and economic hardship in North Korea, the gap between the haves and have-nots so far has only grown with Pyongyang's transformation.

Beyond the paved main streets of the capital, life remains grindingly tough. Food is rationed, electricity is a precious commodity and people get around by walking, cycling or hopping into the backs of trucks. Most homes lack running water or plumbing. Health care is free, but aid workers say medicine is in short supply.

■ ■ ■ ■

For decades, North Korea seemed a country trapped in time. Rickety streetcars shuddered past concrete-block apartment buildings with broken window panes, chipping pastel paint and crumbling front steps.

But since 2010, as part of the campaign to build a new city for their new leader, Pyongyang has been under construction. Scaffolding covers the fronts of scores of buildings across the city. Red banners painted with slogan "At a breath"—implying breakneck work at a breathless pace—flutter from the skeletons of skyscrapers built by soldiers.

Often, the soldiers are scrawny conscripts in thin canvas sneakers piling bricks onto stretchers or hauling them by hand. In 2011, they set up temporary work camps along the Taedong River, makeshift shantytowns decorated by red flags.

Their work focused on downtown Changjon Street, where ramshackle cottages were torn down to make way for department stores, restaurants and high-rise apartments.

Today, the street would not look out of place in Seoul or Shanghai. Indeed, many of the goods—Hershey's Kisses, Coca-Cola and Doritos—on sale at the new supermarket were imported from China and Singapore.

"What is a `delicatessen'?" a North Korean asked as a butcher in a white chef's hat sliced tuna for takeaway sashimi beneath a deli sign written in English. Upstairs, baristas were serving Italian espressos, bakers were churning out baguettes and white wedding cakes.

■ ■ ■ ■

One new Changjon Street resident, Mun Kang Sun, gave The Associated Press a tour of the apartment she and her husband were granted in recognition for her work at the Kim Jong Suk Textile Factory.

A framed wedding portrait hangs on the wall above their Western-style bed. There's a washing machine in the bathroom, an IBM computer in the study and a 42-inch widescreen TV. AP was not allowed to visit other apartments to compare whether the furnishings are typical for Pyongyang residents.

Orphaned as a child, Mun said she began working in factories at age 16. She earned the title "hero of the republic" after exceeding her work quota by 200 percent for 13 years. She says she accomplished that by dashing around the factory floor operating four or five machines at once.

"When we heard the news that we'd get a nest where we can rest, and we got the key for our apartment and took a look around, we were totally shocked because the house is so nice," said her husband, Kim Hyok. "It's still hard to believe this is my home; it still feels like we're living in a hotel."

Though the apartment has faucets, old habits die hard. The bathtub was still filled with water, a bucket bobbing in the tub, as in countless homes across the country where water is pumped from a well, carried in by hand and used sparingly.

■ ■ ■ ■

Elsewhere in the city, aging buildings are getting upgraded. But most are still drafty, the walls poorly insulated, even in the capital. Elevators and heat are rare. North Koreans are accustomed to wearing winter jackets and thermal underwear indoors from October to April.

Power cuts have been less frequent in Pyongyang since the opening of a hydroelectric power station to the northwest, but it's still common for the lights to go out in the middle of dinner. Most people just carry on drinking and eating.

Outside Pyongyang, nightfall comes early. In Ryonggang, west of the capital, lights were out as soon as the sun set. At one inn, two women stood chatting quietly in a lobby lit with a candle as a shrill voice from a radio broadcast chortled from loudspeakers nearby.

Kim Jong Jin's farm cottage in Hamhung has a generator, allowing him and his wife to watch DVDs at night on a TV they carefully cover during the day with a frilly lace veil.

Their thimble of a home is simple but spotless, the papered floors clean enough to eat from. Water is piped into a well in the kitchen. Heat comes from the traditional Korean "ondol" system of feeding an underground furnace with wood. Waste is turned into methane gas for cooking. Food for the household comes from the garden outside.

But not everyone lives in such relative comfort as the Kims, whose home government officials are willing to show off. There are stark signs of poverty across the country. A mother huddles over a child as she sits shivering by the side of the road. Barefoot boys in a village destroyed by floods scamper about dressed in little more than underwear. Sharp shoulders and splotchy faces betray the gnawing hunger of young soldiers.

Beyond the paved, pocked highways that radiate from Pyongyang, there are few roads between the denuded mountains, just dirt paths that become dangerously muddy with rainfall and treacherously slippery in winter. Villagers struggle to clear snow with makeshift shovels crafted out of planks of wood.

Private cars are a rarity outside the capital, and gasoline is scarce. In Hamhung, North Korea's second-largest city, soldiers cram into the backs of trucks powered by wood-burning stoves that send smoke billowing behind them.

Goods are strapped to the back of bicycles, from firewood to dead pigs. Old men sit crouched by the side of the road with bike pumps, offering to fix flats. Oxen, and people, plod past pulling carts.

The closest most may get to the capital in their lifetime is by seeing it on state TV. For them, Pyongyang would truly seem like a fairyland.

■ ■ ■ ■

Life in the North Korean countryside would be familiar to South Koreans old enough to recall the poverty in their nation just after the Korean War. Indeed, into the 1970s, North Korea was the richer of the two Koreas.

Today, newly affluent South Korea has the world's 15th-largest economy. In North Korea, meanwhile, two-thirds of people struggle to find their daily meal, according to the World Food Program.

North Koreans acknowledge the devastating economic loss of the Soviet safety net in the early 1990s. But they blame the county's growing international isolation on the U.S., its Korean War foe, which has led efforts to punish North Korea for developing its nuclear weapons program.

Pyongyang instead has turned to fledgling trade with companies in China, Singapore, Indonesia, Italy, Egypt and elsewhere. These joint ventures keep the shelves in the capital stocked with goods, computer labs filled with PCs, streets crowded with VWs, in spite of sanctions.

For years, foreign goods and customs were regarded with practiced suspicion, even as they were secretly coveted. Kim Jong Un has addressed that curiosity by encouraging trade and by quoting his father in saying North Korea is "looking out onto the world" - a country that must become familiar with international customs even if it continues to prefer its own.

Kim has not made it significantly easier for North Koreans to travel, channel surf or read travelogues posted online, but he is arranging to bring the Eiffel Tower and Big Ben to them in the form of a miniature world park slated to open later this year.

The flow of cash and goods has created a burgeoning middle class in the capital. Pyongyang now has a parade of fashionistas in eye-popping belted jackets, sparkly barrettes clipped to their hair, fingernails painted with a clear gloss. At one European-style restaurant last week, a young couple on a date sipped cocktails topped off with Maraschino cherries and feasted on pizza, their cellphones laid on the table.

At one beauty salon, the rage is for short cuts made popular by singers from the all-girl military Moranbong band who have jazzed up North Korea's staid performance scene with their bobbed hair, little black dresses and electric guitars.

"There are so many young women asking to get their hair done like them," hairstylist Chae Cho Yong said.

■ ■ ■ ■

While the differences between the showcase capital and the hardscrabble countryside are growing starker, one thing remains the same: the authoritarian rule and the intricate web of laws governing life in the Stalinist state.

Even as they laugh, North Koreans calibrate their words. Criticism of the state and leadership is not only taboo but dangerous; when asked for their opinion, most people parrot phrases they've heard in state media, still the safest way to answer questions in a country where state security remains tight and terrifying.

Very few have access to the Internet, cable TV, international phone lines. It's still illegal for them to interact without permission with foreigners, who are kept on a tight leash and discouraged from making impromptu visits to homes, shops, restaurants and offices.

Around Chae, the cavernous barber shop was empty, not a single customer in the brand new swivel seats.

An employee explained that most North Koreans are at weekly ideology study sessions on Saturdays, the only day of the week foreigners are allowed inside.

Health & Fitness

Newfound hormone holds hope for diabetes treatment

By MALCOLM RITTER
AP SCIENCE WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Scientists have identified a hormone that can sharply boost the number of cells that make insulin in mice, a discovery that may someday lead to a treatment for the most common type of diabetes.

People have their own version of this hormone, and the new work suggests that giving diabetics more might one day help them avoid insulin shots.

That would give them better control of their blood sugar levels, said Harvard University researcher Douglas Melton, senior author of a report published Thursday by the journal Cell.

Experts unconnected with the work cautioned that other substances have shown similar effects on mouse cells but failed to work on human ones. Melton said this hormone stands out because its effect is unusually potent and confined to just the cells that make insulin.

An estimated 371 million people worldwide have diabetes, in which insulin fails to control blood sugar levels. High blood sugar can lead to heart disease, stroke and damage to kidneys, eyes and the nervous system. At least 90 percent of diabetes is "Type 2," and some of those patients have to inject insulin. Melton said the newly identified hormone might someday enable them to stop insulin injections and help other diabetic patients avoid them.

As for its possible use to treat Type 1 diabetes, Melton called that a "long shot" because of differences in the biology of that disease.

Insulin is produced by beta cells in the pancreas.

Melton and co-authors identified a hormone they dubbed betatrophin (BAY-tuh-TROH-fin) in mice. When they made the liver in mice secrete more of it by inserting extra copies of the gene, the size of the beta cell population tripled in comparison to untreated mice. Tests indicated the new cells worked normally.

Melton said it's not known how the hormone works. Now the researchers want to create an injectable form that they can test on diabetic mice, he said. If all goes well, tests in people could follow fairly quickly.

Dr. Peter Butler, a diabetes researcher at the University of California, Los Angeles, who had no role in the new work, cautioned in an email that no evidence has been presented yet to show that the hormone will make human beta cells proliferate.

But Philip diIorio, of the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, said he found the work to be "quite promising" because it offers new leads for research, and that it might someday help in building supplies of human beta cells in a lab for transplant into patients.

AP

In this April 5, 2013 photo provided by Harvard University, Harvard Stem Cell Institute Co-Director Doug Melton, right, and Peng Yi, a post doctoral fellow in his lab, review data from recent experiments in Melton's lab in Cambridge, Mass.

ON THE NET

- Cell: http://www.cell.com/
- International Diabetes Federation: http://www.idf.org

Study: chicken, ground beef are riskiest meats

By MARY CLARE JALONICK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—An analysis of more than 33,000 cases of foodborne illness shows that ground beef and chicken have caused more hospitalizations than other meats.

The report by the Center for Science in Public Interest says chicken nuggets, ham and sausage pose the lowest risk of foodborne illness.

The group used government data on 1,700 outbreaks over 12 years to analyze salmonella, E. coli, listeria and other pathogens that were definitively linked to a certain meat.

To calculate which meats were riskiest, CSPI ranked the foods in which contamination was most likely to cause hospitalizations. Some meats may have had more illnesses but were less likely to cause severe illness.

After ground beef and chicken, CSPI categorized turkey and steak as "high risk" and deli meat, pork, roast beef and beef or pork barbeque as "medium risk."

Salmonella and E. coli, pathogens that contaminate meat and poultry during slaughter and processing, accounted for a third of the illnesses surveyed. Clostridium perfringens, a lesser-known pathogen that usually grows after processing when foods are left at improper temperatures for too long by consumers or food establishments, accounted for another third.

While a large number of chicken illnesses were due to clostridium perfringens, chicken led to many hospitalizations partly because of the high incidence of salmonella in chicken that isn't properly cooked.

Most of the ground beef illnesses were from E. coli, which is found in the intestinal tracts of cattle and can transfer to the carcass if the meat isn't handled properly during slaughter. Ground beef can be riskier than steak and other beef products because pathogens are spread during the grinding process.

According to the report, listeria, salmonella and E. coli required the most hospitalizations.

The group noted that the data is incomplete because so many foodborne illnesses are not reported or tracked. The CDC estimates that as many as 48 million Americans get sick from food poisoning each year.

To reduce foodborne illnesses from meat, CSPI recommends what they call "defensive eating"—assuming that meat can be unsafe. Safe handling includes not letting meat juices drip onto other food or counters, cleaning cutting boards and plates that have held raw meat, wearing gloves when preparing meat and washing hands often. Cooks should also make sure meat is heated to the proper temperature before eating it.

Study: New bird flu jumped directly from chickens

LONDON (AP)—Chinese scientists have for the first time found strong evidence of how humans became infected with a new strain of bird flu: from chickens at a live market.

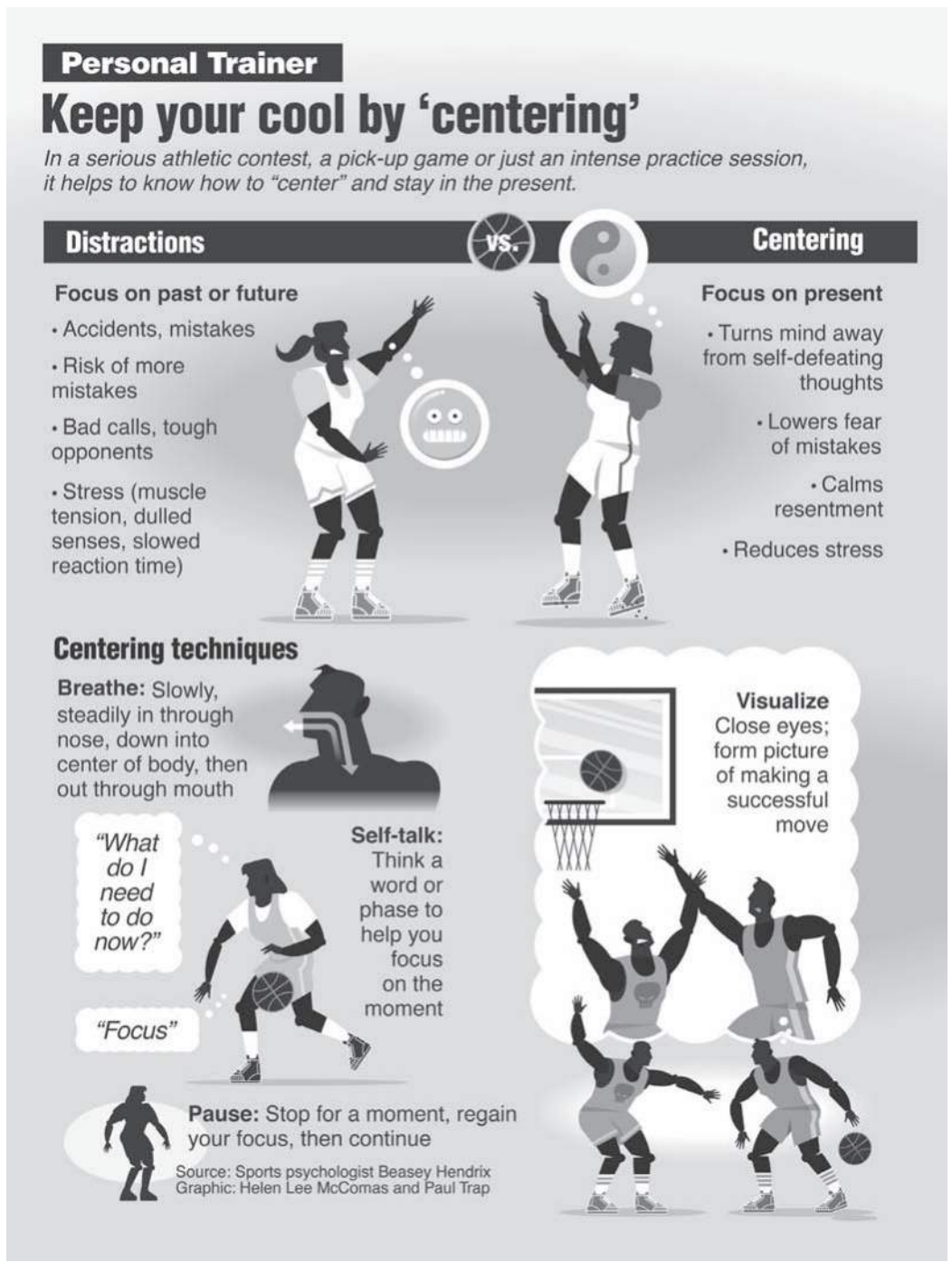
Chinese scientists compared swabs from birds at markets in eastern China to virus samples from four patients who caught the new H7N9 virus. The scientists found the virus from one patient was nearly identical to one found in a chicken. The research was published online Thursday in the journal Lancet.

Finding definitive proof of how patients were infected is very difficult and experts have so far struggled to find much virus in birds. Despite taking nearly 48,000 samples from animals in live markets, Chinese officials found only 39 positive tests for H7N9. Experts had suspected birds in live markets to be the source of infection but weren't sure if other animals or wild birds might also be responsible.

Health officials have so far refrained from recommending any wide-scale slaughter of poultry to contain the disease, one of the main tools used previously to combat another bird flu strain, H5N1. Unlike that strain, H7N9 doesn't appear to sicken chickens, giving experts fewer signs as to where it might be spreading.

Chinese authorities have shut down live poultry markets in many affected regions, which seems to have slowed down the virus. Still, Taiwan reported its first case earlier this week.

So far, H7N9 has infected more than 100 people in China and killed more than 20.


Personal Trainer
Keep your cool by 'centering'
In a serious athletic contest, a pick-up game or just an intense practice session, it helps to know how to "center" and stay in the present.
Distractions
vs.
Centering
Focus on past or future
• Accidents, mistakes
• Risk of more mistakes
• Bad calls, tough opponents
• Stress (muscle tension, dulled senses, slowed reaction time)
Focus on present
• Turns mind away from self-defeating thoughts
• Lowers fear of mistakes
• Calms resentment
• Reduces stress
Centering techniques
Breathe: Slowly, steadily in through nose, down into center of body, then out through mouth
"What do I need to do now?"
"Focus"
Self-talk: Think a word or phase to help you focus on the moment
Visualize Close eyes; form picture of making a successful move
Pause: Stop for a moment, regain your focus, then continue
Source: Sports psychologist Beasey Hendrix
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas and Paul Trap

Life & Style

Eastwood says he'd love to be directing at age 105

NEW YORK (AP)—Clint Eastwood may be 82 years old, but he dreams of making films for two more decades.

In a wide-ranging conversation Saturday about the art of film directing, Eastwood expressed admiration for the 104-year-old Portuguese director Manoel de Oliveira.

"It would be great to be 105 and still making films," Eastwood said. Chuckling, he called such a hope "the ultimate optimism."

Eastwood last directed 2011's "J. Edgar," a biopic of the FBI head J. Edgar Hoover. After acting in last year's baseball drama "Trouble With the Curve," he has several films in development.

The "Million Dollar Baby" and "Unforgiven" director joined fellow filmmaker Darren Aronofsky for a staged talk at the Tribeca Film Festival following a screening of Richard Schickel's documentary "Eastwood Directs: The Untold Story." Eastwood regaled the Tribeca Performing Arts Center crowd with the accrued, pragmatic wisdom from his late career as an acclaimed filmmaker.

Some of the highlights:

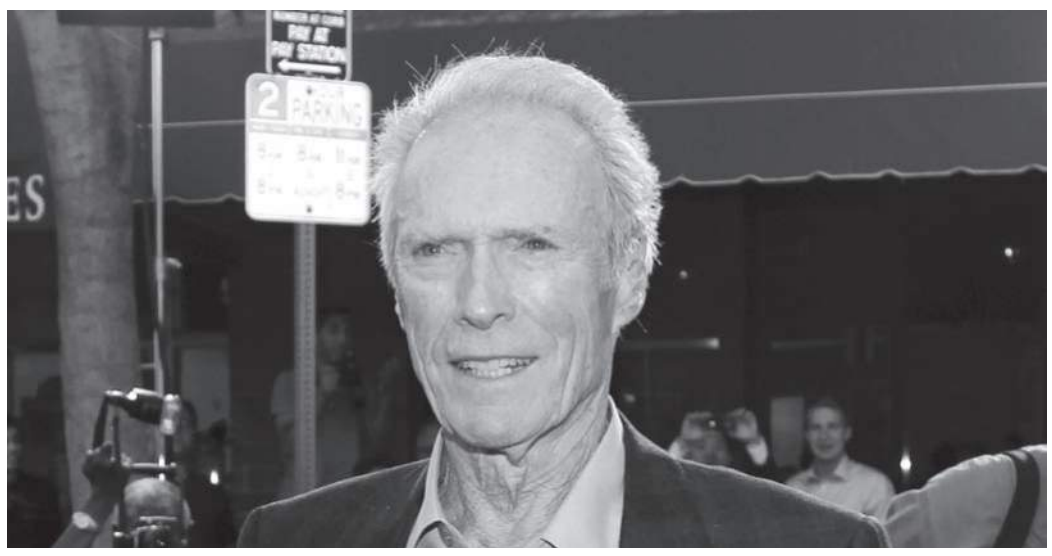
■ On preferring to begin a take with "Go when you're ready," rather than the traditional "Action!": "'Action' puts a bad connotation out there, like some firecracker that goes off to get everyone going."

■ On his willingness to take suggestions for a scene from anyone: "You have to steal a lot. You have to have a criminal mentality to be a film director."

■ On the role of the director in a film production: "A lot of people fell in love with the auteur theory, but you're merely a platoon captain."

■ On studio executives who told him no one wants to see a women's fight film (the best picture-winning "Million Dollar Baby"): "Who the hell wants to see anything? You never know until you get into it."

■ On struggling to get films green-lit: "In the early days it was more of a fight. Now, they go, 'Oh, well, if he's the old guy.'"



This Sept. 19, 2012 file photo shows actor-director Clint Eastwood at the premiere of "Trouble With the Curve" at the Westwood Village Theater in Los Angeles. AP

Will.i.am rebuts accusations of song theft

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Will.i.am says he's been unfairly accused of stealing a song from a Russian dance producer for use on his new album.

The producer-rapper-singer has acknowledged reaching out to trance producer Arty after hearing his 2011 song with London's Mat Zo, "Rebound." Will.i.am recorded a new version with Chris Brown titled, "Let's Go," which has been met with criticism online from Arty's fans.

Will.i.am

He said he emailed Arty, who initially responded positively to an invitation to collaborate. But in recent weeks, the Russian DJ and producer told fans on his Facebook page that there was no final deal between their respective labels and "the matter is under review by our legal teams."

Will.i.am credits Arty, whose real name is Artem Stoliarov, as a writer on the song in the liner notes for his album "(hash)willpower," released this week. He blamed the slow legal clearance process and said he didn't know Arty had worked with another producer on the track. Will.i.am said his legal team was also at work on the issue.

"You can't steal if you credited somebody," will.i.am told The Associated Press in an interview this week. "He and I communicated. ... It's not my fault he didn't tell me about the other guy. So who is to blame? I didn't know."

A message sent to Arty's label, Anjunabeats, was not returned Friday.

Will.i.am, whose real name is William Adams, noted that his album includes collaborations with more well-known electronic dance music producers including Afrojack, Steve Angello and Sebastian Ingrosso.

"I respect that world and in a way helped cross it over for it to be played on radio," he said. "So it's just — it's just — it's kind of wack the way this situation has turned out because it's undermined in a way — not really, it hasn't — but it's undermined my contributions to that world and my respect to that world. Because the way they're painting it is not the way it is."

Will.i.am, whose group the Black Eyed Peas went on hiatus two years ago, said he faced similar issues with slow legal clearances when Estelle and Kanye West released "American Boy" using the beat from his 2007 song "Impatient."

"I don't mind because I like the song and I'm excited about the collaboration with Kanye and Estelle. And then the paperwork happens after it's out," he said. "That happens a bunch of times where legal takes so long. The creative is instantaneous. You want things to come out."

Gawker refuses court order in Hogan sex tape suit

CLEARWATER, Florida (AP)—Editors at the gossip website Gawker said Friday they're not complying with a Florida court order to remove material related to a privacy lawsuit involving former pro wrestler Hulk Hogan.

Pinellas County Judge Pamela A.M. Campbell issued an order Wednesday. It tells Gawker to remove a video of Hogan, whose real name is Terry Bollea, having sex with the ex-wife of disc jockey Bubba the Love Sponge Clem, as well as a 1,400-word narrative and hundreds of user-submitted comments.

The site took down the video, but the narrative and comments remain.

Gawker's attorney, Gregg Thomas, says the order infringes on the website's First Amendment rights.

Hogan's attorney, Charles J. Harder, told The Associated Press he's filing a motion asking the judge to find Gawker in civil contempt of court and impose sanctions.

Hogan settled a similar lawsuit against Clem last year for an undisclosed amount. In both lawsuits, Hogan claimed that he had consensual sex with his then-best friend's wife, Heather Clem, several years ago in the Clemses' home, but he did not know he was being secretly recorded. The video was posted on Gawker, though it wasn't clear who gave Gawker the video.

Bubba the Love Sponge Clem publicly apologized to Hogan, saying he's convinced the ex-wrestler with the long blond hair was unaware he was being filmed. It's not clear whether the men reconciled. The Clemses have since divorced.

It is illegal in Florida to record someone without their permission, but Hogan waited too long to file criminal charges.

Rolling Stones to play small LA club ahead of tour

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Before they kick off their "50 and Counting" tour, the Rolling Stones are playing a warm-up date at a small Los Angeles club.

The band is set to perform Saturday night at the Echoplex before a sold-out crowd that will be miniscule compared to the thousands who are set to see them launch their tour May 3 at the Staples Center.

Tickets were sold for $20 each—a fraction of what tickets to the tour will cost.

Hundreds of fans lined up outside the El Rey Theatre earlier Saturday for a chance at the tickets. They were dispensed through a confusing lottery system that led to much of the crowd departing even though show tickets were made available to lottery ticket holders.

Buyers were limited to one ticket, and were required to show a government-issued ID, pay with cash, wear a wristband with their name on it and be photographed. Their names will be verified at the venue, which has a capacity of about 700. Cameras and smartphones will not be allowed inside.

Rumors of the spontaneous show spread across social networks this week after the band teased the appearance on their Twitter accounts. The dance-pop band New Build, which was originally scheduled to play the Echoplex on Saturday, was first to leak details about the show.

"Our gig got shifted b/c the Rolling Stones are playing Echoplex," the band posted Friday on Twitter. They joked that they're looking forward to "having it out" with the Rolling Stones.

The Rolling Stones performed a few dates together in London, Brooklyn, New York, and Newark, New Jersey, last winter, but didn't announce a tour until earlier this month. They will play 17 dates in the United States but said they may add more down the line.

The lowest price for tickets to the show at the Staples Center, which has a capacity of about 20,000, is $250.

AP

This 2005 file photo, originally supplied by the Rolling Stones, shows the group, from left, Charlie Watts, Keith Richards, Mick Jagger, and Ron Wood posing during a photo shoot.

Court rejects Pussy Riot member's early release

ZUBOVA POLYANA, Russia (AP)—A Russian court on Friday rejected a plea for early release from prison by a member of the feminist punk band Pussy Riot, whose provocative songs and prosecution have made them a symbol of the country's opposition movement.

Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, who has been in custody since her arrest last March, is serving a two-year sentence handed down after the band staged an irreverent protest against President Vladimir Putin in Moscow's main cathedral.

Judge Lidiya Yakovleva said evidence showed that Tolokonnikova did not deserve early release because she had "not always followed the rules of behavior" while in custody.

Tolokonnikova's attorney Irina Khrunova was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying she would appeal on the grounds that the judge did not allow final statements by the defense team.

Tolokonnikova and two other band members were sentenced to prison terms on charges of hooliganism motivated by religious hatred. She sought early release after serving half her sentence, a provision allowed by law.

Another of the convicted band members, Yekaterina Samutsevich, had her sentence suspended on appeal last year.

Tolokonnikova, dressed in a Soviet-style dark prison uniform with a white scarf around her neck, told the court that the prison colony where she is serving her sentence did not support her plea of early release because she "didn't repent." Russian law does not make repentance a condition for an early release.

In its deposition, the prison colony described Tolokonnikova as "insensitive to ethics and conscience and thinking only about herself."

The prison colony also listed a penalty that Tolokonnikova received for failing to say hello to a prison official while she was in the hospital and noted that she was once reprimanded for her refusal to go out for a walk while she was held in a Moscow jail.

Defense lawyers urged the court to release Tolokonnikova so that she can take care of her 5-year-old daughter. Attorney Dmitry Dinze also complained that prison officials seem unable to provide proper conditions to treat her persistent headaches.

Stolen 'Pulp Fiction' car found 19 years later

VICTORVILLE, California (AP)—Authorities say the classic Chevrolet convertible featured in the film "Pulp Fiction" has been found nearly two decades after it was stolen.

The San Bernardino County Sun reports movie director Quentin Tarantino's 1964 Chevelle Malibu was recovered in the San Francisco Bay area earlier this week.

John Travolta's character drove the cherry red car in the movie.

Sheriff's Sgt. Albert Anolin said an investigation into an old Malibu in the desert city of Victorville on April 18 led detectives to another Malibu in the Oakland area. They then confirmed that vehicle belonged to Tarantino and was reported stolen in 1994.

Authorities say the car's current owner is not believed to be involved in its theft and is considered to be a victim of a fraud.

William, Kate and Harry have magic day out

AP

Britain's Prince William, right, and his brother Prince Harry look at a 'Batsuit' used in the Batman films as they and Kate the Duchess of Cambridge, not pictured, attend the inauguration of "Warner Bros. Studios Leavesden" near Watford, approximately 18 miles north west of central London, Friday, April 26, 2013.

WATFORD, England (AP) — Britain's young royals had a magical day out Friday with a visit to the studio where the "Harry Potter" movies were filmed.

Prince William, the Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry toured Warner Bros. Studios Leavesden near London, home to "The Making of Harry Potter" studio tour.

The royals, accompanied by 500 children and adults from charities they support, had a wand lesson, visited the Great Hall of Hogwarts School and saw props, costumes and models from the Potter series in the company of the boy wizard's creator, author J.K. Rowling.

William also seemed taken with props from "The Dark Knight" Batman trilogy. "I'm a very happy man," he joked after exploring the Batmobile and sitting astride the Batpod motorcycle.

Kate, who is six months pregnant and wore a polka-dot dress, smiled indulgently at her husband.

In a speech to Warner Bros. executives, 30-year-old William said he was "over the moon just to have seen the real Batmobile and Batpod."

"On the other hand Harry's just excited to see a real life talking owl in the Harry Potter studios," William said of his 28-year-old brother. "I haven't told him yet that Harry Potter is fictional, so please keep the secret for a little longer."

Friday is the official opening of Warner Bros.' Leavesden Studios, a former World War II airdrome 20 miles (30 kilometers) northwest of London

Warner Bros. has spent 100 million pounds ($155 million) redeveloping the facility, where the eight Potter films were shot, into Europe's largest filmmaking complex.

It was recently used for the upcoming Tom Cruise sci-fi picture "All You Need is Kill."

Capote's 'Breakfast at Tiffany's' sells for $306K

AMHERST, New Hampshire (AP)—Truman Capote's 1958 typed manuscript of "Breakfast at Tiffany's" with the author's handwritten edits has sold for about $306,000 at auction to a Russian billionaire.

The manuscript, expected to net at least $250,000, was offered for sale online by the Amherst-based auction house RR Auction.

RR Auction says the winning bidder is Russian retail billionaire Igor Sosin, who plans to display it in Moscow and Monaco.

Capote's handwritten notations include changing the femme fatale's name from Connie Gustafson to the now-iconic Holly Golightly.

Its plot—built around a woman who supports herself through trysts with wealthy lovers—was scandalous. Harper's Bazaar bought serialization rights, then balked at its explicit content. Esquire magazine purchased it from Harper's and launched it to its 1961 silver screen adaptation starring Audrey Hepburn.

Zach Braff raises $2M on Kickstarter in 3 days

NEW YORK (AP)—Zach Braff has met his goal on Kickstarter, raising $2 million in three days to fund his follow-up to "Garden State."

Braff

The actor-director's crowd-funding campaign follows Rob Thomas' wildly successful use of Kickstarter to finance a movie of the defunct TV series "Veronica Mars." Thomas pulled in $2 million in less than a day, eventually gathering more than $5.7 million in 30 days.

But some observers have criticized Hollywood stars for using the Kickstarter website to dip into the pockets of their loyal fans. Braff says this is the only way for him to direct his first film since "Garden State" with final cut and his desired casting.

After passing his goal Saturday, the "Scrubs" star said on Twitter: "I will not let you down. Let's go make a killer movie."

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Hill says she signed with Sony to pay taxes

NEW YORK (AP)—Lauryn Hill says she has signed with Sony to pay her overdue taxes. Hill pleaded guilty last year to not paying federal taxes on $1.8 million earned from 2005 to 2007. The 37-year-old posted on her Tumblr blog late Thursday that she "signed a new record deal, and that I did this to pay taxes." The total Hill owes is in dispute, but it is around $1 million. Her next sentencing date in New Jersey is May 6. Hill also says she's working on new music. She hasn't released much music since her 1998 solo debut, "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill." It has sold more than 10 million albums and won five Grammy Awards. Hill writes that she's not only signing with Sony because of her legal woes, but also because she needs to express her creativity.

Jerry Lewis makes appearance at 'King of Comedy'

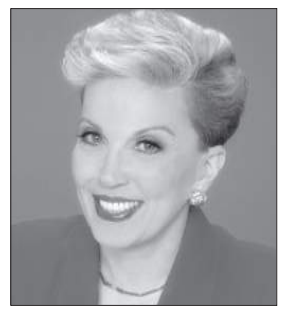
The Tribeca Film Festival has ended on a royal note with Jerry Lewis showing up at the 30th anniversary screening of "The King of Comedy." The 87-year-old comedian-actor walked out to thunderous applause after the screening Saturday, joining co-star Robert De Niro and director Martin Scorsese. Lewis answered questions about the making of the film and brought the audience to laughter with a tale about a guy he met on a subway train. In the movie, Lewis plays a talk show host kidnapped by a deranged comedian played by De Niro. De Niro founded the festival with producers Jane Rosenthal and Craig Hatkoff as a way to rebuild the neighborhood where the World Trade Center fell in the 9-11 attacks. ***(AP)***

Navajo the chosen one for new 'Star Wars' dub

FLAGSTAFF, Arizona (AP)—The classic "Star Wars" film that launched a science fiction empire is being dubbed in the Navajo language. A handful of Navajo speakers translated the script for "Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope." Now people are being sought to fill some two dozen roles. Casting calls are scheduled Monday in Burbank, California, and next Friday and Saturday at the Navajo Nation Museum in Window Rock, Arizona. Potential actors don't have to sound exactly like Princess Leia or Luke Skywalker but should deliver the lines with character. Museum director Manuelito Wheeler says he sees the translation as entertaining and a way to preserve the Navajo language. Wheeler says it's rewarding considering the U.S. once tried to eradicate the language, then called on Navajos to use it during World War II.

E-cigarettes harm the smoker, but not secondhand breather

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I work in a small office with two former heavy smokers who have now transitioned to vapor/e-cigarettes. My concern is that they "smoke" their e-cigarettes in the office constantly, and I don't know what chemicals I am now breathing secondhand.

Both of them are senior to me in rank and age, and they pooh-pooh the notion that anything but water vapor is being exhaled. Am I making something out of nothing, or should I be worried about this?

CLEAN AIR

DEAR CLEAN AIR: You don't have anything to worry about, but your co-workers may. In 2009, the FDA announced the findings from a laboratory analysis that indicated that electronic cigarettes expose users to harmful chemical ingredients, including carcinogens. However, those elements were NOT detected in exhaled vapor.

DEAR ABBY: The woman who collaborated with me on this letter is in her 80s and lives at an assisted-living facility. I am a caregiver and a senior myself, and I have worked in this area for six years.

We read your column on the days I care for her. She loves it and responds verbally to all the letters. Many times the situations spark good conversation, even though her short-term memory is failing. Sometimes we end up howling with laughter. She's a delight and has the courage to still seek out relationships.

This is what she asked me to help her to communicate.

KATE IN AUSTIN, TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: I have been in assisted living for seven years. There are times when it can be lonely and boring. I'd like to meet some men for companionship, conversation and perhaps romance. The men here act so much older than me. They don't start conversations. They stay in their rooms and watch TV and don't seem interested in conversations.

It's hard because my memory isn't what it used to be, but I do remember how nice it was to have male companionship. Do you have any ideas to make my life a little more interesting?

LONELY WOMAN

DEAR LONELY: Start by making sure you participate in all the activities your assisted-living facility offers. Shared mealtimes and holiday celebrations also present opportunities to mingle.

The trick is to find something you have in common with these men—sports, games, music, movies. Because long-term memory outlasts short-term memory, some of them might find it easier to discuss their youth than the present.

Encourage your caregiver, Kate, to take you places where you can meet other seniors. And while you're at it, why not invite some of the men to join you both during your Dear Abby sessions? It's a way to draw people out and get to know them better.

DEAR ABBY: After a six-month separation, my husband and I are reuniting. We were married for 22 years. I know for a fact he has dated and slept with several women. He's adamant that he used protection each time, but the idea of STDs has me preoccupied and worried. I have asked him to use protection with me until I get over my fear.

How long do most of today's STDs incubate, and what is a safe time to wait to remove the "rain gear"?

LONGING FOR CONTACT

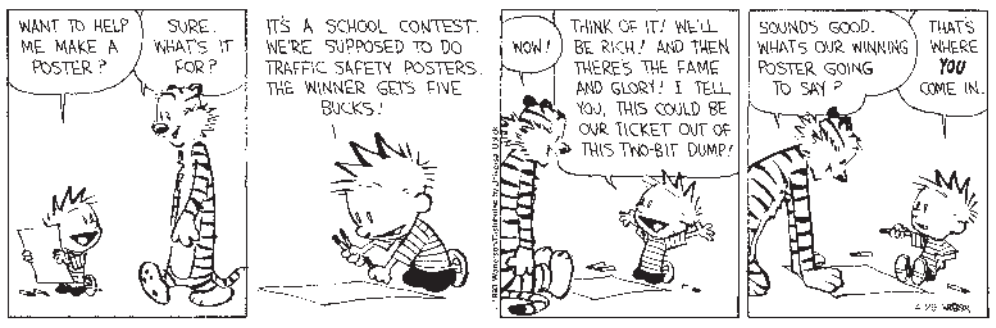
DEAR LONGING: Congratulations on your reunion. Rather than worry about this, ask your husband to schedule a doctor's appointment and be tested for any STD he might have contracted. Not all STDs have the same incubation period, but a blood test could resolve the issue and put your mind at ease.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

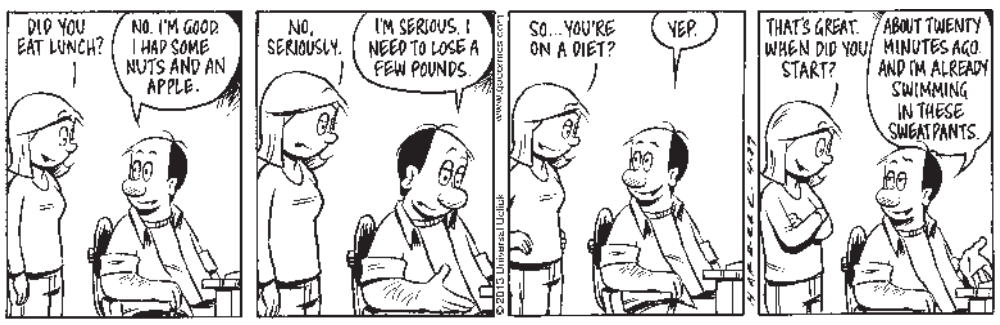

WANT TO HELP ME MAKE A POSTER?
SURE. WHAT'S IT FOR?
IT'S A SCHOOL CONTEST. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO DO TRAFFIC SAFETY POSTERS. THE WINNER GETS FIVE BUCKS!
WOW!
THINK OF IT! WE'LL BE RICH! AND THEN THERE'S THE FAME AND GLORY! I TELL YOU, THIS COULD BE OUR TICKET OUT OF THIS TWO-BIT DUMP!
SOUNDS GOOD. WHAT'S OUR WINNING POSTER GOING TO SAY?
THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

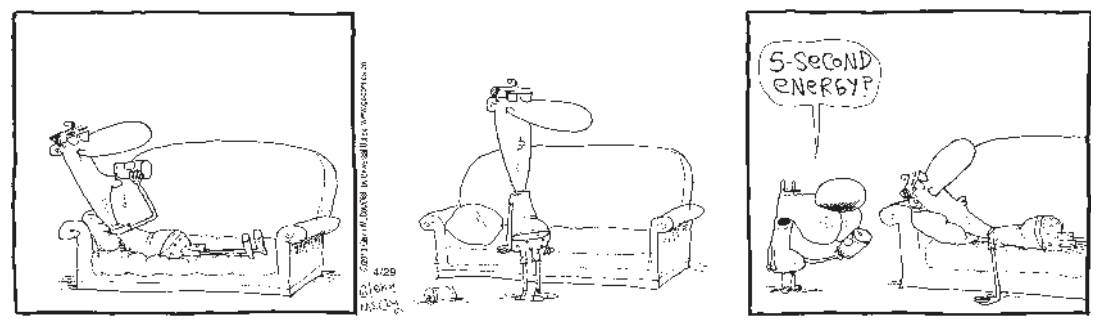
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DID YOU EAT LUNCH?
NO. I'M GOOD. I HAD SOME NUTS AND AN APPLE.
NO, SERIOUSLY.
I'M SERIOUS. I NEED TO LOSE A FEW POUNDS.
SO... YOU'RE ON A DIET?
YEP.
THAT'S GREAT. WHEN DID YOU START?
ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES AGO. AND I'M ALREADY SWIMMING IN THESE SWEATPANTS.
© 2013 Universal Uclick

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

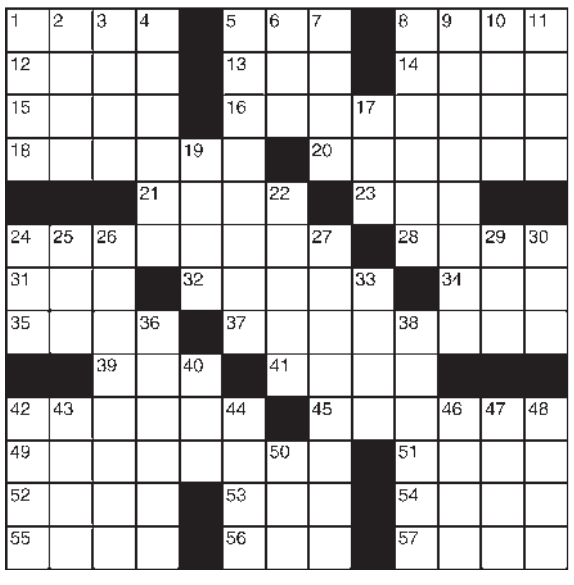
ACROSS
1 Variety of lettuce
5 "Eureka!"
8 Book of prophecies
12 Lotion additive
13 Chaps
14 Toothpaste container
15 Anger
16 Conventional
18 One up?
20 Western occurrence
21 Leopold's co-defendant
23 Four qts.
24 One of Monopoly's light blue avenues
28 Speech impediment
31 Great noise
32 Disrobe
34 Female deer
35 Bird of peace
37 Decoration
39 Finish
41 Ireland
42 Secular
45 Servile
49 Form a union
51 Top
52 Isn't well
53 Calendar abbr.
54 Prolonged sleep
55 Run away
56 Automaton, for short
57 Slaughter of baseball

DOWN
1 Zinger
2 Pelvic bones
3 Nut partner
4 Pvt. Bailey
5 Cherub, in art
6 The girl
7 Picnic invaders
8 Musically keyless
9 Flood aftermath, perhaps
10 Reed instrument
11 Send a naughty message
17 Embrace
19 Billions of years
22 Wilkes—, Pa.
24 Peculiar
25 Brazilian tourist mecca
26 Lure
27 Ache aid
29 Junior
30 Teacher's —
33 Rid of rind
36 Put in a box
38 Threaten
40 Novelist Brown
42 Unsliced bread
43 Seed coat
44 Owl's perch
46 PC picture
47 Magazine contents
48 Meadows
50 Menagerie

Solution time: 27 mins.

P	A	L			L	O	R	D		S	I	D	E
A	N	Y			A	C	N	E		T	O	O	T
S	T	R	A	W	H	A	T			O	U	C	H
T	I	E	D	Y	E			R	E	O			
				O	E	R			O	L	D	H	A	T
S	T	A	R	R			J	I	M		O	D	E
C	O	T	E			G	U	T			D	Y	A	N
A	D	O			J	O	G			B	E	A	R	D
T	O	P	H	A	T			C	O	N				
				E	G	O			H	A	S	S	L	E
A	I	O	T			W	H	I	T	F	H	A	T	
B	E	A	U			A	O	N	E			E	T	C
C	A	R	P			R	E	A	D			S	I	I	I

Friday's answer 4-29



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Andre Agassi, 43; Uma Thurman, 43; Michelle Pfeiffer, 55; Jerry Seinfeld, 59

Happy Birthday: The more you do to improve your relationships with others, the easier it will be for you to make the personal changes that can alter your life forever. Consider your mental, physical and financial options and you will find a way to balance your life. Relocation or adding knowledge or skills to your resume will lead to greater success. Your numbers are 6, 13, 20, 26, 31, 34, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Put some thought into what excites you, and you will find a way to satisfy your needs. Travel, communication and education will all help you reach your current goal. Don't let anyone limit what you can achieve. Take progressive action. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Speak with confidence and authority, and you will sway others to support you. Follow up whatever statement you make with actions. Once you put the work behind you, the rewards will follow. An agreement will help you move forward. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): A spontaneous act will help someone more than you realize. Rewards for your actions may not come through the usual channels. The less you expect, the more you shall receive. Take action rather than being a bystander. Settle differences and move on. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): What you do for others will be a reflection of who you are. Reconnecting with people you have worked with in the past will open doors to new beginnings. Let your instincts and keen memory lead you in the right direction. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't give in to anyone putting demands or pressure on you. Speak up and make it clear what you need and want to see happen. Step outside your comfort zone if that's what it takes to get your way. Make an unexpected move. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Step up and take action. Let your heart lead the way personally and professionally and you will find peace of mind and satisfaction. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You may have more at risk then you realize. Go over contracts, personal paperwork and your financial situation and make adjustments. Protect your assets, your home, your family and your emotional wellness. An unusual interest will relieve stress. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Deal with partnerships and lifestyle issues that haven't been giving you the satisfaction you require. Spice up your life and utilize your talents. Share what you have to offer with those sharing your interest and skills. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't give up a chance to socialize, network and be a participant. Responsibilities must not be allowed to stand between you and your goals. Helping someone out is one thing, but being taken advantage of is another. Draw the line. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Take control and make things happen. Your insight and common sense will help you engage in ventures that will secure your position and transpose anything that isn't working for you into something that is. Love and romance are in the stars. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Say little. Whatever you need to do, just pick and choose the time and place carefully. It's important to avoid interference. A problem with institutions, authority figures or traveling to destinations you know little about should be curtailed. Stick close to home. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Pull in ideas from people you see as creative and forward-thinking. Draw up contracts and agreements that will help you alter your course and reach your set goal. Someone you have worked with in the past will come in handy now. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a leader. You are responsible, assertive and dedicated.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8		9		6		7		3
	3				8		5	
4				2				6
	4			7				
1		6	3		2	5		9
				4			6	
7				5				1
	1		8				7	
5		2		9		8		4

Difficulty Level ★ 4/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

6	2	9	5	7	3	8	4	1
4	3	8	2	1	6	7	9	5
1	5	7	8	4	9	6	2	3
7	4	6	9	2	5	1	3	8
8	9	3	1	6	7	4	5	2
5	1	2	3	8	4	9	7	6
3	8	4	6	9	2	5	1	7
2	7	1	4	5	8	3	6	9
9	6	5	7	3	1	2	8	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 4/26

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

AURORA PENS Solution: 8 letters

C	Q	D	D	E	C	A	D	E	N	N	E	R	O	S
A	U	E	R	E	N	I	F	O	R	I	S	E	H	T
L	A	S	A	P	A	R	I	E	U	R	O	P	A	Y
L	D	I	T	M	C	T	D	E	L	U	X	E	E	L
I	R	G	O	O	I	O	N	U	T	T	E	N	U	E
G	A	N	L	D	M	T	L	H	A	S	T	I	L	S
R	D	O	E	(D)	C	I	P	L	F	P	N	C	A	A
A	R	A	L	(L)	I	E	Z	O	E	S	A	E	V	U
P	L	H	L	(O)	L	P	U	A	T	C	L	P	F	R
H	A	P	O	(B)	A	N	R	R	T	I	T	I	E	O
Y	T	L	R	N	T	L	U	E	T	I	R	I	E	R
L	E	A	T	A	I	M	E	E	F	E	O	P	O	A
A	M	A	I	D	E	Z	E	D	N	I	A	N	S	N
T	N	N	S	N	I	T	I	Z	O	H	L	G	S	E
I	N	O	T	S	I	P	E	N	S	M	L	L	A	B

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Alpha, Aurora, Ball, Bold, Calligraphy, Collection, Color, Customizations, Decade, Deluxe, Design, Diamond, Edition, Elite, Europa, Finer, Firenze, Fountain, Hastil, Instrument, Italic, Italy, Lids, Marble, Metal, Model, Modern, Nero, Nettuno, Nice, Optima, Pantani, Paper, Pens, Piston, Quadra, Refill, Roll, Shape, Size, Styles, Thesi, Value

Last Friday's Answer: Pony Car

Books: THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 25, 27, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36 or 37 sand $6.95 each plus $3 per copy for handling for first book ($1.50 each additional book) for priority mail. Canadian orders send $5.00 for first book ($2.50 each additional book) for surface mail. Make check payable to Universal Uclick, and send to: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106. Or call 1-800-591-6446. Credit card orders accepted. Visit us online at: Books to 43 states, no sales tax (NY, PA residents)

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Vanishing cream

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

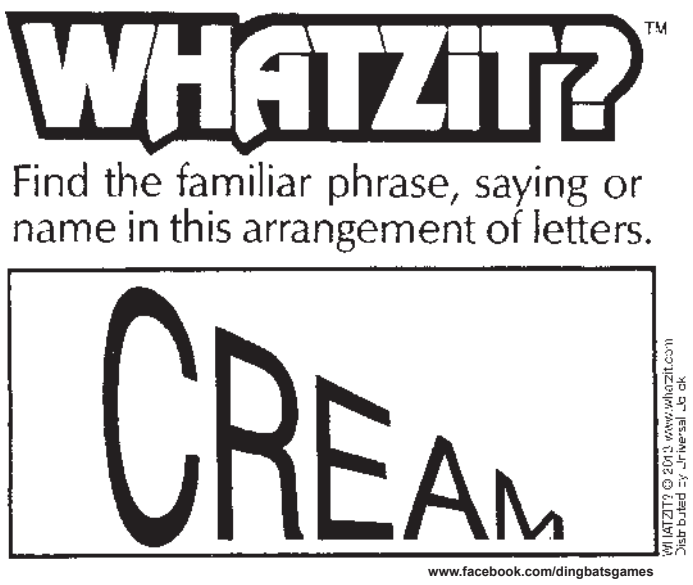
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find today's solution in classified section

AC PACIFIC, LLC dba STAR SANDS PLAZA
P.O.BOX 503842-CK SAIPAN, MP 96950-3842
TELEPHONE: 233-3535 FAX: 233-3232
E-MAIL ADDRESS: star@starsands.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS AND SEEKING POSITIVE, ENERGETIC, OUTGOING, FRIENDLY, AND WITH WORK EXPERIENCE RELATED TO THE VACANCY.

1. THREE (3) MERCHANDISERS/BUYERS –MUST BE ABLE TO KNOW HOW TO DO REMERCHANDISING – MUST KNOW REPLENISHMENT FIFO SYSTEM, ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE LOWS AND OUTS AND REPORT IT TO THE STORE MANAGEMENT, MUST USE OWN JUDGEMENT TO PERFORM DUTIES, BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT THE QUANTITY ORDER NEEDED, SHOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH FACTOR AND RATIO WHEN ORDERING BOTH OFF ISLAND AND LOCALS, BE ABLE TO FAMILIARIZE WITH COST AND RETAIL AND MUST DEMONSTRATE ABILITY TO GET ALONG WITH OTHERS AND BE COACHABLE.
MUST ALSO BE A HARD WORKER AND HAVE THE ABILITY TO DEAL WITH NINE DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES. THE PROSPECT MUST PROVIDE TRAINING AND ACCOMPLISHMENT CERTIFICATION. SHOULD UNDERSTAND THE CONSEQUENCES IF THE ATTENDANCE IS POOR. SERIOUS APPLICANT SHOULD HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE WORKING WITH THE "MICROSOFT DYNAMIC AX 2012" SYSTEM.
2. TO APPLY, (1) WALK-IN PREFERABLY
(2) CAN USE OUR WEBSITE
(3) DO NOT CALL IN

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) Carpenter/Painter
Salary: $5.55 per hour.
5 years experience.

Please submit resume to Bespren Development c/o Exquisite Salon. Tel. # 235-5362

Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) Storekeeper
2 years experience. Salary: $5.55 p/h

Submit Resume to:
J'smalotte Corporation
P.O. Box 500877, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 235-2427

Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) Manager
Min. 5 yrs experience. Extensive knowledge in Accounting, Office Management & Insurance Industry. Ability to adjust in different working environments & deal with various clients of different ethnicity. Salary commensurate with work experience. Send police clearance together with cover letter & resume to friendshipinformation @gmail.com or Friendship Ent., Inc., P.O. Box 501193 CK, Saipan, MP 96950.

Job Vacancy Announcement
(2) Fisherman
2 years experience.
Salary: $650.00
Free Boarding.

Kimo Mobile Fishing
Tel.: (670) 235-2427

For SALE or RENT
3 STOREY BUILDING
1st Floor - BIG OFFICE SPACE
2ND FLOOR – APT UNITS:
Two (2 bedrooms, 1bathroom)
One (4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms)
3RD FLOOR – APT UNIT:
One (1 bedroom, 1 bathroom)
Call Maria at 989-7654

Looking for Property
Preferred location:
Capitol Hill or Navy Hill
(Ocean View to Managaha)
- Must have property map

Please call 234-5700 or email at mtopsun@yahoo.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ASSISTANT OFFICE MANAGER (1) Min 5 yrs exp in administrative and HR functions. Knowledgeable in Peachtree prog, prepares tax reports, handles permits, licenses & workers' immig docs. Represents the company before banks & gov't agencies. Clears container shipment/docs at Customs. College grad. Salary depends on qualifications & exp.

CARPENTER (1) Min 5 yrs exp in bldg repairs, maintenance & installation such as carpentry, electrical, plumbing, mechanical & others. Familiar in OSHA and CNMI environmental laws, Knowledgeable in using maintenance tools & equipment. Must have a certif from OSHA const industry safety & health training. Salary depends on qualifications.

Send resume to hongeei@pticom.com **HONG ELECTRIC ENTERPRISES, INC.**

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

JWS AIR CONDITIONING AND REFRIGERATION, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

TWO (2) METAL SHEET WORKER - Salary $5.55 - $ 6.00/Hr.
- Fabricate, assemble, install & repair metal sheet products & equipments such as ducts, control boxes, drain pipe & AHU casings
- Must have experience with metal, fiberglass & koolduct ducting fabrication
- Set up & operate fabricating machine, related fabrication tools & welding machine
- Must be knowledgeable in interpretating plans & specifications

ONE (1) ACCOUNTANT - Salary $5.75/Hr.
- Prepare tax returns, tax payments & financial reports & verify its accuracy & conformance with standard accounting principle
- Monitor daily transactions, prepare journal entries & record to Wintac Pro HVAC Acctg Program
- Handles customer billings, collections, & cash receipts, payment & payroll
- Knowledgeable in WintacPro HVAC Accounting Program & Microsoft office

ONE (1) COMMERCIAL CLEANER - Salary $5.55/Hr.
- Perform duties to maintain & clean office & private residence in an orderly manner
- Perform basic household chores
- Must be honest, responsible, reliable & efficient at all times.

FOUR (4) AC & REF TECHNICIAN - Salary $5.55 - $10.50/Hr.
- Install, service & repair ventilation, central air conditioning & refrigeration systems
- Perform repair & trouble analysis of VAV & WT control systems & electrical / electronic control systems
- Repair & service chilled water air-conditioning system. Experience with turbocor compressors & controls a plus
- Specific experience with Manitowoc Ice Machines, Taylor Ice Cream Machines, Walk-in refrigeration systems & other food service equipments a plus
- EPA Section 608 & R410A certified required.

ONE (1) SALES ENGINEER - Salary $5.55 - $7.50/Hr.
- Sells HVACR mechanical, electrical and related equipment, parts and supplies.
- Prepares estimates on equipments, parts, supplies, or services as needed
- Knowledgeable in interpreting plans & specifications and prepare shop drawings and BMS
  Knowledgeable in the following equipment:
  - Split-type air conditioners
  - Residential and commercial ducted package and split units
  - Refrigeration equipments , cool rooms and ice machines

Except for Commercial Cleaner, applicants must possess good communication skill & a minimum 10yr. work experience required.

Application can be obtained & submitted to JWS AC & Ref Inc's. office at WH-Door 2, Dotse Pl., Beach Rd., Southern Garapan (at the back of Moylan's Insurance) or email to: jwssaipan@pticom.com; tonys.jwssaipan@pticom.com

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Jewelry Appraiser – Must have 4 to 5 years experience in jewelry appraising, honest and trustworthy.

(1) Barber – Must have 2 to 3 years work experience. Must be familiar with crew cut, fades and hair tattoos. Applicants must mail resume together with valid identifications, original police clearance and previous employment certifications to CALMA CORPORATION PMB 205 PPP BOX 10000 SAIPAN MP 96950. No phone calls please.

Tinian Muslim Comm., Inc. is looking for a priest. Muslim faith w/ Islamic study. 4 yrs exp. Tel. 433-2442.

1 Operations Manager (Tour): $1,300/mo. 5 years experience in tour agency management required. Korean speaking and writing fluency required. Email resume to hit@hanmisaipan.com.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Large family home in Dandan 5 Br./2 bths. Unfurnished w/ new Ref., Stove, Washer, walled & gated, private. View of Laulau & Forbidden Is., 3 stories, outside kitchen. Call 322-0268.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
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Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

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PACIFIC CENTURY INC, have job openings for reliable and experienced personnel:

Cashiers/Grocery Checkers(4): Operate Casio ECRs with scanners. Minimum two years experience. Accurate cash transacting, able to validate checks and process credit cards transactions. Must be healthy, presentable, and above 21 years to legally transact restricted alcohol and tobacco products. This is a multitask position involving grocery checking, bagging or receiving or merchandise display at light hours. Split shifts, weekend shifts. $5.55 - $6.05 per hr depending on experience in ECRs.

Store Supervisors (2): Supervise all employees to ensure product availability, competitive pricing, updating of Casio ECRS, verifying cash sales, and all other functions to ensure store competitiveness, cleanliness, and pleasant environment for complete customer purchase satisfaction. Minimum four years retail experience. Must have competitive market knowledge. Early and late shifts. $5.95-$7.50/hour

Retail Buyers (2): Buy merchandise, frozen, chilled and fresh produce for resale. Familiar with fast moving merchandise, sources of supply, order quantities and costs. Select items, order merchandise, allocate display retail areas, assign store work including receiving, merchandising, product mark-ups and other related duties. Minimum 2 years experience in the CNMI retail sector required. Applicants must be knowledgeable of products, suppliers and market pricing to be able to perform purchasing duties. $5.55 - $6.05/hr.

Butchers (2): Cut frozen products, trim and pack for resale. Minimum two years experience in meat cutting with current health clearance. Thorough knowledge of food safety, sanitation, and dismantling and re-assembling equipment, and facility maintenance for safe processing of meats and frozen foods required. Must know how to safely operate high speed Biro or Hobart Meat Cutters and Slicers, and be able to use barcoding meat labeling. Split shifts. $5.55 - $6.05 per hr.

General Maintenance Worker (1) Part- Time (1): Maintenance of store and equipment to include light welding, carpentry, cleaning, painting, pipe fitting, aligning of meat cutters, forklift maintenance and other related duties in maintenance. Full time applicant must have current OSHA certification in operating forklifts to transfer equipment for cleaning. Minimum two years experience. $5.55 to $6.05 per hr.

Cleaners (2): Perform combination of light cleaning duties to maintain private households and businesses. Minimum two years experience required with written references from past employers attesting to reliability and honesty. Able to work night and weekend shifts. $5.55 per hr.

Sorters (4): Perform sorting of materials for recycling, sampling or testing. Must be able to work in all weather conditions. This may be a part time or project based employment, with early morning, evening and week-end split shifts. Minimum one year experience in general labor, preferably some knowledge of waste sorting. Must be able to follow instructions on materials separations and accurately achieve weights and volume specifications in material separations. $5.55/hr

Heavy Equipment Operators/Facilities Personnel (4): Able to operate lift trucks, balers, compressors, generators, grinding equipment, back-hoes. Must have general mechanical knowledge, current OSHA certification for lift trucks, and possess knowledge of work place safety. $5.55 - $7.50 per hour depending on experience. Minimum one years experience needed. This is a project based position, with split and weekend shifts.

Please submit resume to include ORIGINAL current police clearance and health certificate **by mail only** to Pacific Century Inc, P.O. Box 504514. Please submit references with telephone contact numbers for verification of attendance of previous employment. **U.S. citizens and USCIS work authorized residents are preferred. Applicants may be required to undertake drug testing**. Selected Applicants may be assigned to either company's locations or at project sites, and rotated at management's discretion.

Pacific Century Inc., is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

WANTED

SPORTS REPORTER

The *Saipan Tribune* is looking for a full-time sports reporter.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Above average writing skills, with strong grasp of grammar and syntax;
- Minimum two years' experience in sports writing;
- Must be able to write stories based on score sheets;
- Can work fast within deadlines and in a stressful environment;
- Must be able to work on holidays, weekends, late nights, and on short notice;
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player;
- Computer literate;
- With photography skills;
- Must have reliable means of transportation.

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USC's Barkley, 3 other QBs picked in 4th round

AP

In this Oct. 13, 2012, file photo, Southern California's Matt Barkley throws a pass against Washington during an NCAA college football game in Seattle.

NEW YORK (AP)—This was one rush quarterbacks embraced.

Starting with Matt Barkley, the fourth round of the NFL draft was the landing spot for quarterbacks who carried hopes of going much higher. Philadelphia traded up with Jacksonville to get the Southern California QB with the opening pick Saturday.

"I try not to get stressed about things I can't control," Barkley said when asked about his drop in the draft from likely first-rounder in 2012 to No. 98 overall. "I'm just glad I know where my home is and I can't wait to hit the playbook."

Yes, it was three rounds later than Barkley hoped for. Same thing for Ryan Nassib of Syracuse, Landry Jones of Oklahoma and Tyler Wilson of Arkansas, the other quarterbacks chosen in Round 4.

"We're going to take the best value on the board," coach Chip Kelly said, adding the Eagles rated Barkley in the top 50. "There's a prime example. The best value on the board by far was Matt. He's an extremely mature young man, intelligent, articulate. He has that `it' factor."

Perhaps. But he seemed to have a lot more of it last year, but Barkley opted to return to school. He and the Trojans slumped, Barkley injured his shoulder, and his stock plummeted.

He will join quarterbacks Michael Vick and Nick Foles in Philadelphia.

The New York Giants, hardly in need of a quarterback with Eli Manning in his prime, still dealt with Arizona to move up for Nassib.

Nassib, from the Philadelphia suburbs, took a call from Giants coach Tom Coughlin, but wasn't sure what Coughlin told him.

"To be honest with you, I blacked out. I didn't get everything," Nassib said. "What I did get from him was that first off I had to cut my ties with the Philadelphia Eagles and switch, which won't be a problem."

Oakland, which acquired Matt Flynn from Seattle in the offseason to be its starter, followed two picks later at No. 112 overall with Wilson. Three spots after that, Pittsburgh grabbed Jones, probably hoping to groom him behind Ben Roethlisberger.

"I just think it was time to start grooming a new player, freshen up the room if you will," quarterbacks coach Randy Fichtner said.

"I get to learn from one of the best quarterbacks to play the game," Jones added.

Before Saturday's surge, quarterbacks were rare - only one was chosen in each of the first three rounds: Florida State's EJ Manuel by Buffalo in the first round; West Virginia's Geno Smith by the Jets in the second; and North Carolina State's Mike Glennon by Tampa Bay in the third.

In all, 11 QBs were selected, the same number as last year. But four went in the first round in 2012.

A former quarterback, Denard Robinson of Michigan, is headed to Jacksonville, which had one of the league's worst offenses the last two years. Robinson will be switched to running back or receiver by the Jaguars; he set the NCAA record for career yards rushing (4,495) by a quarterback.

"A lot of people have put me at different positions," he said. "Now it's time to go to work."

South Carolina running back Marcus Lattimore, who would have been a high pick if healthy but is coming off a second severe knee injury, went to the 49ers 131st overall. San Francisco can afford to "redshirt" Lattimore because it has a strong stable of runners, including Frank Gore, Kendall Hunter and LaMichael James.

"We really haven't even talked about that, so I don't have any clue," Lattimore said about possibly sitting out 2013 to heal completely. "My main goal right now is to go in there and work hard, go in there and learn the offense, and if I'm ready to play, I'm going to play, and if I'm not, I'm not."

Lattimore, who dislocated his left knee and tore three ligaments last season, said he spoke with Gore during his rehab.

"And now I'm with the 49ers, and it's just a great, great situation for me," Lattimore said.

Special teamers finally got the call when three kickers went in the fifth round: punters Jeff Locke of UCLA to Minnesota and Sam Martin of Appalachian State to Seattle, and placekicker Caleb Sturgis of Florida to Miami.

National champion Alabama, which had four players chosen previously—three in the first round—had five more go on the final day: linebacker Nico Johnson to Kansas City with the pick after Barkley was taken; guard Barrett Jones, who can play all offensive line positions, to the Rams; DTs Jesse Williams to Seattle and Quinton Dial to San Francisco; and tight end Michael Williams.

Mr. Irrelevant, the 254th and final pick, was tight end Justice Cunningham of South Carolina by Indianapolis.

Robinson surge leads Bulls past Nets in triple OT

CHICAGO (AP)—The Chicago Bulls were down and just about out in this one. Go figure, Nate Robinson led them back.

Robinson scored 34 points, and Chicago wiped out a 14-point deficit late in regulation and beat the Brooklyn Nets 142-134 in triple overtime Saturday to take a 3-1 lead in the first-round playoff series.

The Bulls were trailing 109-95 in the closing minutes of the fourth quarter when Robinson went on one of his tears, carrying his team to an improbable victory with a stretch that reminded the streaky point guard of a video game.

"I always think I'm on fire, kind of like the old school game NBA Jam," he said. "You make a couple in a row, the rim's on fire. You shoot the ball, the ball's on fire. I feel like that at times—all the time. Whenever I'm in the game, I just play with a lot of confidence. You kind of have to lie to yourself and feel like you can't miss."

There's the rub with Robinson.

He'll rush shots. He'll miss. He'll make his coach cringe and every Bulls fan groan, but then, he'll do something like this.

Robinson scored all but five of his points after the third quarter, including the first 12 in a 14-0 run that wiped out Brooklyn's late lead. Then, with 2 seconds left in the first overtime, he banked in a go-ahead jumper over Deron Williams.

Joe Johnson answered with one of his own to send it to another overtime, tied at 121. The Bulls had a chance to win in the closing seconds of the second extra session, but Joakim Noah was blocked, and the game went to a third OT.

The Bulls finally pulled away after Williams (32 points) drove for a layup to pull Brooklyn to 133-130 with 3 minutes left. The basket accounted for Williams' only points after regulation.

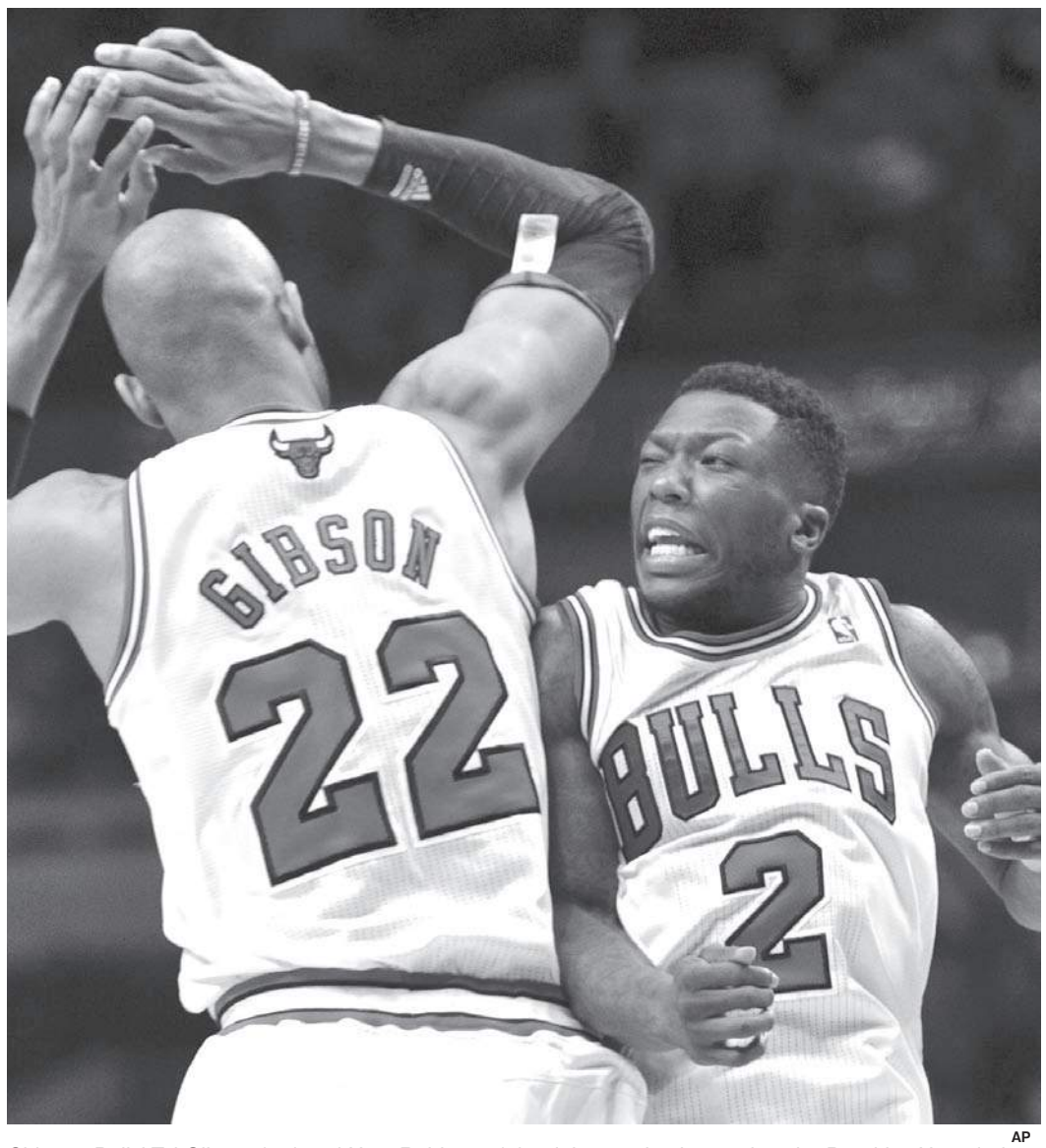
Luol Deng then scored to make it a five-point game, and Nazr Mohammed hit two shots in the final 32 seconds to help preserve the win.

He converted a jump hook, then grabbed the rebound and scored with 19 seconds left after Carlos Boozer made a free throw and missed the second, making it 140-134.

The Bulls will try to wrap up the best-of-seven series at Brooklyn on Monday. The Nets are going to have to dig deep to win three in a row after they wasted a prime chance to draw even and steal back home-court advantage.

Brooklyn was leading by 14 after a dunk by Gerald Wallace with 3:45 left in the fourth. C.J. Watson then stole the ball and was all alone for a breakaway dunk, but he missed.

Robinson nailed a 3 with 2:53 remaining, and that got the tying run started. Boozer finished it with a layup with about 55 seconds left.



AP

Chicago Bulls' Taj Gibson (22) and Nate Robinson (2) celebrate a basket against the Brooklyn Nets during the second overtime in Game 4 of their first-round NBA basketball playoff series Saturday, April 27, 2013, in Chicago.

Brook Lopez then hit two free throws, but the Bulls tied it again when Noah put back his own miss with 23 seconds left. Williams missed a jumper and Wallace had his layup blocked by Jimmy Butler with a second left, sending the game into overtime.

"We made a lot of mistakes up 14," Williams said. "It was so long ago, I can't remember what all went on. We had the missed dunk. Missed free throws. I fouled Nate on the 3. We made a lot of mistakes in the fourth quarter."

It looked as if the Bulls would win when Robinson banked in a runner off one foot over Williams with two seconds left in the first OT. But after a 20-second timeout, Johnson caught a pass at the top of the key and nailed a floater at the buzzer, sending it to double overtime.

The Bulls were leading 127-123 after Deng fed Noah for a dunk with 1:18 left in the second overtime, but Johnson quickly quieted the crowd with a three-point play.

Robinson then fouled out when he charged into Williams with just over a minute left. Lopez got fouled with 48.7 seconds left and made the first free throw to tie it at 127 before missing the second. Boozer got the rebound, but Deng missed a jumper with 30 seconds left.

Johnson then missed one for Brooklyn with about six seconds left. Noah was blocked by Lopez, the ball bouncing out of bounds, and the game went to a third overtime after the inbounds pass deflected off the Bulls center and hit the rim.

Robinson came close to missing the second half and overtimes altogether.

He and Watson got tangled up in the second quarter and went crashing into the scorers' table in the second quarter. They exchanged shoves, but the referees decided not to eject them.

Instead, they each got technicals and Robinson—who was guarding Watson—picked up a personal foul. But later, he perked up just as the Nets were ready to put this one away.

"I tease Coach (Tom Thibodeau) a lot because it seems like every shot I shoot he's mad," Robinson said, laughing. "At the same time, it's basketball. He does a great job of putting us in position to be successful."

When this is the result, Thibodeau will take it.

"He hit big shot after big shot," he said. "That's what makes him so valuable. We got him going and he had a great run. He just played a great game."

The Bulls also got a big performance from Kirk Hinrich, who finished with 18 points and 14 assists. Boozer scored 21, Jimmy Butler added 16, and Noah chipped in with 15 points and 13 rebounds. He also played more than 38 minutes even though Thibodeau had said he would be limited to about 25 to 30 because of the plantar fasciitis in his right foot.

Williams hit the 30-point mark in a playoff game for the seventh time in his career and had 10 assists. Lopez added 26 points and 11 rebounds, and Johnson scored 22 despite being bothered lately by plantar fasciitis in his left foot.

"Honestly, this is definitely a game we let get away," Johnson said. "It's disappointing, but the series isn't over."

Thunder 104, Rockets 101

In Houston, Kevin Durant scored 41 points in his first game without injured All-Star Russell Westbrook, and Oklahoma City fought off Houston's late rally to take a 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven playoff series.

Durant scored 27 points in the first half, and the Thunder led by 26 points before a big third-quarter rally by the Rockets put them within striking distance.

Houston regained the lead with about 4 minutes left, and was up with less than a minute remaining. But Durant hit a 3-pointer seconds later to put Oklahoma City on top 100-99.

A turnover by James Harden gave the Thunder the ball back and Derek Fisher made two free throws to push the lead to 3. Harden made a layup, but Reggie Jackson hit two more free throws after that.

Houston had a last chance, but Carlos Delfino's 3-pointer fell short.

Harden scored 30 points to lead the Rockets in the first playoff game in Houston since 2009.

Game 4 is Monday night in Houston

Grizzlies 104, Clippers 83

In Memphis, Tenn., Marc Gasol had 24 points and 13 rebounds, and Memphis beat Los Angeles to even the first-round playoff series at 2-all.

Zach Randolph finished with 24 points and nine rebounds as the Grizzlies won their second straight to ensure another stop in Memphis for Game 6. Mike Conley had 15 points and 13 assists, and Tayshaun Prince scored 15 in his best game of the series.

Chris Paul and Blake Griffin had 19 points apiece for the Clippers, and Griffin also grabbed 10 rebounds. Los Angeles' reserves outscored its counterparts again, 43-16. But DeAndre Jordan was the only other starter to score for Los Angeles, and he had two points. Chauncey Billups and Caron Butler went a combined 0 for 10 from the floor in being shut out.

Game 5 is Tuesday night in Los Angeles.

Hawks 90, Pacers 69

In Atlanta, Al Horford had 26 points and 16 rebounds as Atlanta turned things around dramatically in its playoff series against Indiana, blowing out the Pacers in Game 3.

Playing with much more urgency than they did in two double-digit losses at Indianapolis, the Hawks raced to a 54-30 halftime lead and narrowed the best-of-seven series to 2-1. Game 4 is Monday night in Atlanta, where the Hawks have won 12 straight over the Pacers dating to 2006.

The Hawks changed up their lineup—inserting 7-footer Johan Petro at center and bringing 3-point specialist Kyle Korver off the bench—after getting manhandled on the road. With more favorable matchups and a lot more energy, Atlanta suddenly made a series of it.

Indiana, which looked so dominant on its home court, was a totally different team after heading south. David West led the Pacers with 18 points. Paul George, who averaged 25 points in the first two games, was held to 16 on 4-of-11 shooting. The Pacers connected on a dismal 27 percent (22 of 81) from the field.

NBA BRIEFS

Thunder's Westbrook to have knee surgery Saturday

HOUSTON (AP)—Oklahoma City Thunder coach Scott Brooks says All-Star point guard Russell Westbrook is scheduled to have knee surgery on Saturday. The team announced Friday that Westbrook would need the surgery to repair cartilage in his right knee and that he would be out indefinitely. Westbrook, who has a lateral meniscus tear in his right knee, was hurt when rookie Patrick Beverley tried for a steal in the second quarter of Game 2 and ran into his knee. Brooks also said on Saturday at the team's shootaround that Reggie Jackson would start for Westbrook later in the evening in Game 3 of the best-of-seven series, which the Thunder lead 2-0. It will be the first time Westbrook has missed a game in his career. He has appeared in an NBA-best 394 consecutive regular-season games and each of Oklahoma City's 45 playoff games.

J.R. Smith suspended for Game 4 for elbowing Terry

BOSTON (AP)—The NBA suspended Knicks guard J.R. Smith on Saturday night for Game 4 of New York's playoff series against Boston for elbowing the Celtics' Jason Terry in the chin. Smith, the league's Sixth Man of the Year, will be forced to sit out when the Knicks try to complete a four-game sweep Sunday. The Knicks had a big lead Friday night when Smith, holding the ball, swung his elbow into Terry's face with 7:06 remaining. Smith was given a flagrant foul 2, an automatic ejection.

Dwyane Wade a game-time decision for Game 4 against Bucks

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Now it's Dwyane Wade's turn to make a decision. The Miami Heat star is getting treatment "around the clock" for his aching right knee, and coach Erik Spoelstra said they'll wait until Sunday to decide whether he'll play in Game 4 against the Milwaukee Bucks. With a chance to close out the series in four games, something the Heat haven't done since LeBron James and Chris Bosh joined Wade in Miami, he's sure to want to play. But with the outcome of the series almost inevitable—no team has come back from a 3-0 deficit to win a series—and so much of the playoffs left, taking a game off might be the wiser option. "It's very difficult right now because it's the playoffs and tomorrow is never promised. During the regular season, you can really pick and choose your spots," Chris Bosh said after the Heat practiced Saturday. "Now, it's just doing what you're supposed to do off the court as much as possible, and hoping when you play out there in the game, you can play as close to 100 percent as you can. "It's a very tough position to be in right now," Bosh added.

Back-to-back homers power Orioles past A's

OAKLAND, California (AP)—Nick Markakis and Adam Jones hit back-to-back home runs in the fourth inning, Chris Tillman pitched six innings for his first win of the season and the Baltimore Orioles beat the Oakland Athletics 7-3 on Saturday.

Nate McLouth also homered for Baltimore, which is 3-0 on its 11-game road trip and in position for its first four-game sweep in Oakland since 1987.

Tillman (1-1) scattered seven hits with seven strikeouts and two walks. He also had to bat in the seventh inning after an injury to catcher Taylor Teagarden forced the Orioles to abandon their DH. He struck out.

Josh Donaldson matched his career high with four hits and two RBIs. The A's have lost four straight and eight of nine.

Oakland starter A.J. Griffin (2-2) allowed only five hits in seven innings but gave up two home runs for the second straight start.

AP
Baltimore Orioles' Nick Markakis, right, celebrates his two-run home run with teammate Manny Machado (13) against Oakland Athletics' A.J. Griffin in the fourth inning of a baseball game Saturday, April 27, 2013, in Oakland, Calif.

Yankees 5, Blue Jays 4

In New York, Travis Hafner hit a three-run homer, then lumbered around the bases for a go-ahead triple in the seventh inning that sent CC Sabathia and the Yankees over the Blue Jays.

Vernon Wells delivered another key hit against his former team as the Yankees beat Toronto for the third straight day. With Mariano Rivera getting a day off to rest, Joba Chamberlain worked around a pair of one-out singles in the ninth for his first save since 2010.

Jose Bautista and Brett Lawrie homered for the Blue Jays, who dropped to 1-5 on their seven-game road trip.

Esmil Rodgers (1-2) was the loser.

Sabathia (4-2) allowed three earned runs and nine hits in eight innings. He walked none, struck out four and improved to 14-4 overall against Toronto.

Twins 7, Rangers 2

In Minneapolis, Pedro Hernandez pitched five shutout innings for his first major league win, Josh Willingham homered and the Twins beat the Rangers to end a three-game slide.

Anthony Swarzak, Brian Duensing and Jared Burton each work a scoreless inning before Glen Perkins struggled in the ninth, giving up a two-run double to Mitch Moreland.

Derek Holland (1-2) gave up five hits and four runs—three earned in seven innings for Texas, which lost for just the second time in nine games.

Hernandez (1-0) was making just his second start—and fourth appearance—for the Twins. His first start was April 7. He allowed just five hits and struck out three. After getting into a third-inning jam, Hernandez retired eight of the final nine hitters he faced.

Rays 10, White Sox 4

In Chicago, Matt Moore became the first Tampa Bay pitcher to win five games in April as the Rays snapped a two-game losing streak with a victory over the White Sox.

The left-hander joined Boston's Clay Buchholz as the only five-game winners this month. He allowed just three hits, one earned run and matched a season high nine strikeouts in six innings of work.

Moore's 1.13 ERA is second-lowest in the majors behind St. Louis right hander Jake Westbrook (0.98).

Gavin Floyd (0-4) left the game with two outs in the third with a flexor muscle strain in his right elbow. He threw just 47 pitches, gave up two hits and two earned runs.

Red Sox 8, Astros 4

In Boston, David Ortiz had two hits and three RBIs to extend his torrid start after a long layoff, and Felix Doubront overcame a wild first inning to pitch into the seventh as the Red Sox beat the struggling Astros.

It was 14th win in 19 games for the surging Red Sox (17-7). Boston can tie a club record for the most wins in April by completing a four-game sweep over Houston (7-17) on Sunday.

Boston matched its best start since 2002 with its fourth straight win.

Ortiz is hitting .519 (14 of 27) with two homers and nine RBIs since getting back into the lineup last Saturday. He missed the 71 of the final 72 games last season and all of spring training with a heel injury.

The Red Sox went 18-8 in April 1998 and 2003.

Mariners 3, Angels 2

In Seattle, Kendrys Morales snapped a 2-all tie with a pinch-hit RBI single in the seventh inning, Felix Hernandez allowed just one earned run and five hits over eight innings, and the Mariners beat the Angels.

The Mariners were 0-for-10 with runners in scoring position and suffering through another miserable night without clutch hitting before Morales' line-drive single off reliever Michael Roth that scored Kyle Seager with the go-ahead run. Jesus Montero hit a two-run homer in the sixth inning for Seattle to pull the Mariners even.

That was all Hernandez (3-2) needed. He stumbled only in the third inning when Chris Iannetta led off with a solo homer and the Angels added an unearned run. Hernandez won at home for the first time this season.

Royals 3, Indians 2

In Kansas City, Mo., Ervin Santana pitched seven scoreless innings, Salvador Perez hit a two-run homer and the Royals held on to beat the Indians.

Santana (3-1), who was acquired in an Oct. 31 trade with Anaheim for minor-league pitcher Brandon Sisk, allowed six singles, struck out five and walked none.

Greg Holland, who logged his sixth save in seven opportunities, gave up two unearned runs in the ninth on a Michael Brantley two-out triple, which scored Mark Reynolds, who had an infield single, and Lonnie Chisenhall, who reached on Eric Hosmer's error. Holland struck out Jason Kipnis to end the game.

The Indians have scored three runs or less in eight of their past 10 games and 13 times this season, going 3-10 in those games.

Scott Kazmir (0-1), who was making his second big league start in two years, was charged the loss.

Tigers 7, Braves 4

In Detroit, Omar Infante and Jhonny Peralta both hit two-run homers, and Rick Porcello bounced back from a nightmarish start last weekend to pitch into the seventh inning, helping the Tigers to a win over the Braves.

Infante's homer off Kris Medlen (1-3) broke a 3-all tie in the fourth. Porcello (1-2) allowed three runs in 6 1-3 innings. He didn't make it through the first last Saturday at Los Angeles, when he gave up nine runs to the Angels.

Atlanta's Justin Upton hit his major league-leading 12th homer in the eighth, but Infante doubled home a run in the bottom half and scored to make it 7-4.

Nationals 6, Reds 3

In Washington, Bryce Harper homered and singled, Dan Haren had his best start of the young season and the Washington Nationals beat the Cincinnati Reds.

Denard Span and Jayson Werth each had two hits for Washington, which has won the first three games of the four-game set.

Haren (2-3) didn't quite match Jordan Zimmermann's one-hitter and Gio Gonzalez's impressive eight innings of one-hit ball the previous two games, but he was sharp enough. Haren allowed two runs and six hits over six innings, lowering his ERA from 7.36 to 6.29.

Rafael Soriano pitched a scoreless ninth for his seventh save.

Brandon Phillips had three singles and Shin-Soo Choo homered for Cincinnati, which has lost four of five.

Phillies 9, Mets 4

In New York, Domonic Brown and John Mayberry Jr. hit consecutive home runs to break open a close game and the Phillies beat the Mets, sending Jonathan Pettibone to his first major league win.

Ryan Howard knocked in two runs, Jimmy Rollins scored twice and Michael Young had three hits—two that never left the infield—for the second straight day. Pettibone (1-0) pitched his way out of an important jam to help Philadelphia improve to 4-1 against the Mets after losing the season series last year.

Shaun Marcum (0-1) went four innings in his Mets debut after beginning the season on the disabled list with a neck injury and right biceps tendinitis. John Buck hit his eighth homer in the ninth, way too late to prevent New York from dropping to 3-5 on a nine-game homestand with its third straight defeat.

Pirates 5, Cardinals 3

In St. Louis, Russell Martin hit a two-run home run to highlight a four-run seventh inning and the Pirates rallied to beat the Cardinals.

The comeback gave A.J. Burnett (2-2) his second victory over St. Louis in 10 days. He gave up two runs and five hits in six innings. His six strikeouts expanded his team record for month of April to a league-leading 48. Burnett threw seven shutout innings in a 5-0 win over St. Louis on April 17.

St. Louis starter Jake Westbrook left after six innings with a 2-0 lead in search of his 100th career victory. He struck out six and scattered six hits to lower his ERA to 0.98 in four starts.

The Pirates had three consecutive hits against Joe Kelly (0-1) to lead off the seventh and were aided by a hit by pitch and a walk to score four runs.

Cubs 3, Marlins 2

In Miami, David DeJesus hit a tiebreaking single in the seventh inning to help lift the Cubs to a win over the struggling Marlins.

Travis Wood (2-1) pitched six innings allowing two runs and struck out five for Chicago, which has won four of five.

Three relievers held the lead to get to Kevin Gregg, who pitched a perfect ninth for his third save.

Marlins slugger Giancarlo Stanton hit his first home run of the season, an estimated 472-foot drive over the left-field scoreboard. Miguel Olivo also homered for Miami, which dropped to 5-19, the worst record in baseball.

Brewers 6, Dodgers 4

In Los Angeles, Carlos Gomez and Martin Maldonado each hit two-run home runs to propel the Brewers to a victory over the Dodgers.

Gomez's homer off reliever Matt Guerrier in the seventh inning erased a 3-2 deficit and Maldonado added his blast an inning later, also off Guerrier, to give the Brewers the cushion they needed.

The comeback overshadowed the major league debut of Dodgers starter Matt Magill.

Magill pitched 6 2-3 innings, striking out seven while retiring 12 of the last 13 batters he faced.

Paco Rodriguez replaced Magill and gave up an infield single to Norichika Aoki. Guerrier (1-1) replaced Rodriguez and gave up Gomez's shot to left field.

The Brewers' Wily Peralta (2-1) gave up three earned runs on six hits over 6 innings with one walk and two strikeouts.

Diamondbacks 3, Rockies 2, 10 innings

In Phoenix, Cody Ross' sacrifice fly to center field drove in A.J. Pollock with the winning run in the bottom of the 10th inning, lifting the Diamondbacks over the Rockies.

Pollock led off the inning with a single off Edgmer Escalona (1-1).

With one out, he stole second base and went to third on a throwing error by Rockies catcher Wilin Rosario. The Rockies then intentionally walked Miguel Montero to have Escalona face Ross.

Ross hit a ball more than 400 feet to center that gave the Rockies had no chance to throw out the speedy Pollock.

Arizona won its sixth extra-inning game without a defeat this season.

Closer J.J. Putz (2-0) earned the win with a scoreless top of the 10th.

Padres 8, Giants 7, 12 innings

In San Diego, Yonder Alonso scored the winning run when San Francisco second baseman Marco Scutaro couldn't come up with Nick Hundley's grounder, lifting the Padres to a victory over the Giants.

Alonso reached base with his third double of the game, went to third on Jedd Gyorko's single and scored on Scutaro's miscue. The loss is the Giants' fourth straight, and their third extra-inning defeat in four games.

Sergio Romo (1-2) took the loss.

Joe Thatcher (1-0) pitched the 12th inning giving up two hits for the win.

San Diego trailed 5-0 before rallying for six runs in the fourth inning. Alonso and Chris Denorfia each had two-run doubles.

Adobo takes early lead in DLX caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Adobo notched the early lead in the 2013 DLX Invitational after taming the San Roque Bandits, 105-79, last Friday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

A 23-9 scoring salvo in the opening canto was all Adobo needed to move up to a 2-0 record and take the solo top spot in Bracket A. San Roque dropped to a 1-1 slate.

Five Adobo players made two field goals apiece in the first quarter for Adobo's strong start while only Art Salazar scored more than 2 points for the depleted San Roque crew in the opening period.

San Roque missed Angelo Fernando in the first 10 minutes of play and although he reported for the match in the second quarter, scoring 9 points, the defending champion Adobo had already gained cushion and continued its breakaway, leading at halftime 53-28.

Adobo never looked back from thereon to stretch its winning streak in the league to 13, dating back to its 11-0 slate last season.

Shane Deleon Guerrero led Adobo with his 20 points, while Ichitaro Faisao added 18, and their three other teammates also scored double-digits, while three more had at least 5 points apiece.

Fernando led all scorers with his 36 markers.

Yuichiro 87, GHD 81

Yuichiro bounced back from its debut loss to Mawati after outclassing GHD in the second game last Friday.

The fast and furious tandem of Rodney Sacramento and Zack Babauta teamed up in Yuchiro's first win with the former drilling 21 points and the latter tallying 25. Big man Sheen Metran complemented the run-and-gun game of the Yuichiro guards, chipping in 18 markers.

GHD missed winning back-to-back games as it ran out of firepower in the end after taking a 63-61 lead in the third quarter.

While GHD had limited offensive options in the payoff canto, the trio of Metran, Sacramento, and Babauta provided the needed baskets for Yuichiro. Metran dropped 10 of his total points in the fourth quarter to grab the lead from GHD, while Sacramento and Babauta combined for 16 markers. Only Jason Bahillo and J.P. Villanueva scored for GHD for more than nine minutes in the fourth canto before Jun Javier got garbage points in the closing seconds.

First Game

Adobo 105 – Deleon Guerrero 20, Faisao 18, Hemley 12, Vertudez 12, Saruno 11, Radifa 7, Apelo 6, Palacios 5, Dela Cruz 4, Yap 4.

San Roque Bandits 79 – Fernando 36, Sinca 19, Salazar 12, Guiang 4, Delos Reyes 2, Pineda 2, Cruz 2.

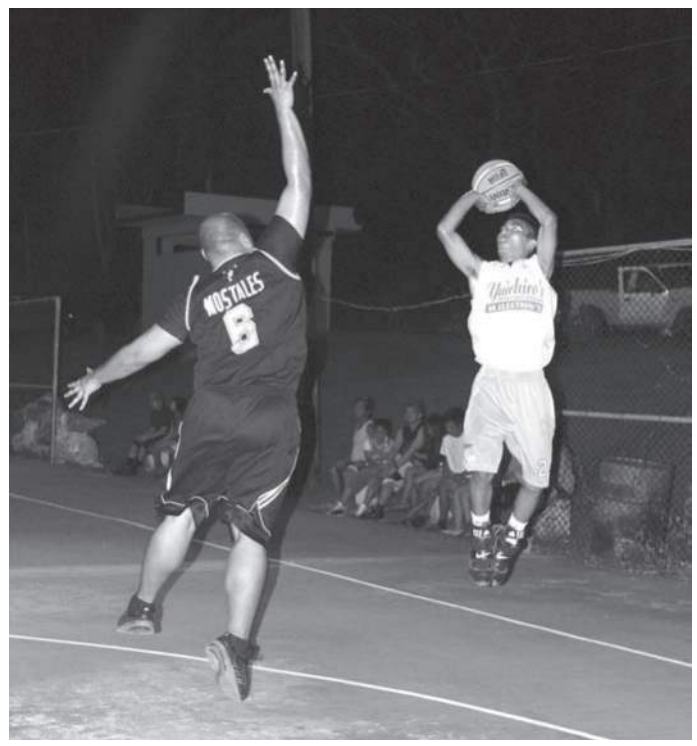
Scoring by quarters: 23-6, 53-28, 80-59, 105-79.

Second Game

Yuichiro 87 – Babauta 25, Sacramento 21, Metran 18, Enriquez 4, Sanciangco 4, Montes 2, Cultura 2.

GHD 81 – Bahillo 26, Villanueva 24, Javier 11, Mostales 11, Raquera 2, Ferrer 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-16, 41-34, 61-63, 87-81.



ROSELYN NB. MONROYO
Yuichiro's Rodney Sacramento pulls up for a long jumper against GHD's Ron Mostales during the second quarter of their game in the DLX caging last Friday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Bradley chooses Marquez

By ROY LUARCA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BOXING

Timothy Bradley Jr. believes his best option moving forward is a fight with Juan Manuel Marquez. AP Photo/Reed Saxon

The tug-of-war for Timothy Bradley ended Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila) with Juan Manuel Marquez eventually yanking the American off the hands of Manny Pacquiao.

Revered promoter Bob Arum told the *Los Angeles Times* that Marquez-Bradley will be held on Sept. 14 in Las Vegas, quashing hopes of a fifth encounter between Marquez and Pacquiao within the year.

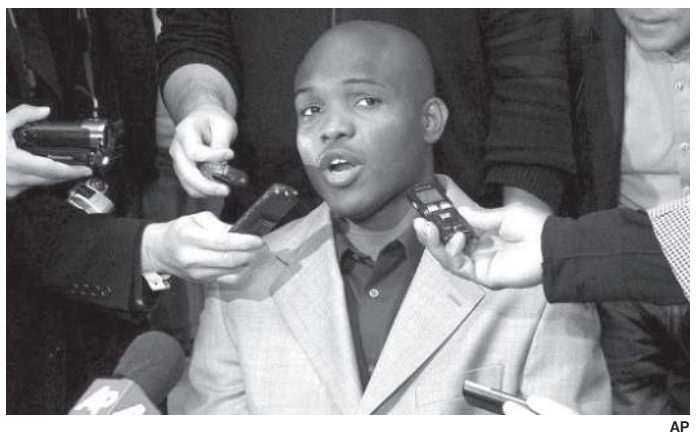
Pacquiao, who was knocked out by Marquez in the sixth round last Dec. 8, tried to lure Bradley into a rematch with a hefty $6 million guaranteed purse.

Bradley, owner of a dubious split decision win over Pacquiao last June, however, settled for a lesser amount against Marquez, who'll become the first Mexican to hold five world titles if he succeeds in wresting Bradley's World Boxing Organization welterweight crown.

"Marquez wanted to fight Bradley and Bradley wanted to fight Marquez," Arum told the Times.

According to Arum, the major stumbling block to a fifth Pacquiao-Marquez tiff was the eight-division world champion's insistence that the fight be staged in Macau or Singapore. Pacquiao balks at fighting in Las Vegas again because of the 40 percent tax to be slapped on his purse.

With Marquez and Bradley out, arch rivals Mike Alvarado and Brandon Rios become the pacesetters in the scramble for Pacquiao's next opponent in October.



AP
Timothy Bradley Jr. believes his best option moving forward is a fight with Juan Manuel Marquez.

NO-NO

From Page 28

at the plate, too, got one triple, and made three runs, while Jaydon Taniguchi Tenorio contributed two RBIs and two runs, as he also went 2-for-3 at the plate.

McDonald's went to bat 27 times and had 12 hits. Jets were at the plate only for 13 times and had their best chances to score at the bottom of the second with the bases loaded, however Taniguchi made back-to-back strikeouts to end the inning.

Braves 13, Comets II 0

The NSA Braves moved up to the top spot, bumping off the Talaabwogh Falcons after whipping the Comets II in the second game last Saturday.

Noel Cabrera also had a no-hitter, struck out nine, and walked only one to give the Braves an 11-2 record, one win ahead of the Falcons, who hold a 10-2 slate, pending results of yesterday's matches.

The Braves capped off the victory with a six-run top of the fourth inning to hand the Comets II its eighth loss in 13 games and put the latter's playoff chances in danger.

Besides his steady game at the mound, Cabrera also contributed on offense, drilling two runs. He only hit 1-for-3 at the plate, but his double yielded two RBIs.

Robin Sablan added two more RBIs for the Braves on a 2-for-4 performance at the plate and the division leaders got three more earned runs after going 8-for-25 at bat overall compared to the 0-for-12 of the Comets II.

Little Legals 11, IT&E 0

In last Thursday's game, the Kagman Little Legals (7-5) cruised to victory over the slumping IT&E (1-11).

Barry Lizama pitched 3.2 innings and allowed only two hits and no runs and no walks and struck out five to set up the Little Legals easy victory. Jose Camacho came in for Lizama and although former gave up one run, he allowed only one hit and struck out for in 1.1 inning.

IT&E got its lone run at top of the fifth with Phillip Kaipat off a pitching error, but that did not stop the Little Legals from wrapping up the match one inning early via 10-run mercy rule. Damien Camacho delivered the winning run at the bottom of the fifth off an IT&E error at third base.

WARREN

From Page 28

drew Erika Tuttle in the first round and won, 6-4, to get a semis ticket against Warren in the top half of the seven-player draw.

In the lower half of the draw, Epley and Gregoire prevailed over Hana Ojima, 6-4, and Riko Ojima, 6-3, to march into the Final Four.

Meanwhile, six other players also punched tickets to the next round of their respective singles events.

In the girls U18, Thea Minor and Mikayla Lopez will square off in the finals anew after slipping past their separate foes. Minor advanced to the finals yesterday morning after a 6-2, 7-5 semis win over Negahr Rastguiy, who barged into the Final Four round after eliminating Alina Ishikawa, 6-0, 6-0. Lopez grabbed the other finals berth after ousting Carol Lee in a three-set game also yesterday morning, 2-6, 6-3, 6-3.

In the girls U15 singles, top seed Isabel Heras is in the finals, following a 6-0, 6-0 triumph over Liza Atalig, who made it to the semis after beating Zena Demapan, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2.

In the other semis pairing, Julia Ishikawa was still dueling Jazmin Rayphand at press time yesterday and results were unavailable. Rayphand got a semis seat after sweeping Emily Jones, 6-2, 7-5, while Ishikawa also advanced, following a 6-2, 6-4 win over Ami Tsukagoshi. In the girls U12 singles, three semis tickets were already taken at press time last night. Top-ranked Malika Miyawaki barged into the semis after winning over Conatsu Kaga, 6-1, 6-4. Miyawaki's semis foe was the winner between the Mimi Sakano-Catherine Atalig tiff yesterday afternoon in the top half of the draw.

In the lower half of the draw, Tania Tan and Grace Choi secured the two semis berths. Tan won over Asia Raulerson, 6-2, 6-1, while Choi prevailed over Coume Kaga, 6-0, 6-1.

Meanwhile, results of the boys singles and the doubles will be reported in *Saipan Tribune* later this week.

CNMI

From Page 28

watched Sunjoon Tenorio break Guam's heart with his game-winning goal. According to Chambers' reports, Tenorio made the goal in the eighth minute of the second half with Edwin Kim starting the play with his 360 move down the left sideline to break away from Guam defenders. Kim then crossed the ball to the middle with Tenorio at the right time and at the right place, connecting on a shot of a lifetime.

"Coach Jersh [Angeles] commented that the next 20 minutes were the longest 20 minutes of his life. We had to prevent Guam from scoring to complete the win. The game was very physical. There were lots of contact and tackles. Several of our players got hit pretty hard, but bounced back up, shook it off and kept going. The CNMI did not substitute any players during this game and they were getting a little winded—but their adrenalin was still going and they were still running hard. Overall, the CNMI dominated the game," Chambers added.

Joining Tenorio and Kim on the squad were Alex Park, Clayton Izuka, Joshua Abragan, Steve Martin, Euly James Ermitanio, Alan Hinson, David Mafnas, Cody Leon, Joshua De Leon, Louie Bryle Calayag, Emmanuel Aniana, Mareko Tekopua, Jherico Tiamzon, Christopher Aninzo, Albert Bergancia, Cole Chambers, Won Kwan Kim, Logan Mister, and Anthony Fruit. The team was coached by Wai Wo "Jacky" Lee, who is assisted by Angeles, while Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Johann Noetzel served as goalkeeper coach, and Gary Ramsey joined the officials' list.

The CNMI U14 National Team started their campaign in the AFC qualifier with a 0-13 loss to eventual top placer South Korea, before limiting Chinese-Taipei and China to single digit scoring. Chinese-Taipei had five goals against Guam, which also lost to China, 0-14.

"This has been a great experience for the boys. They had more practice time during the 10 days they were here that a typical club team on Saipan has during a whole season. They have all learned a lot and I believe they have learned what it takes to become better soccer players," Chambers said.

Meanwhile, South Korea and seven other countries survived the 46-nation qualifiers that were divided into four zones of two groups each to determine the teams that will be playing in next year's finals.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	17	7	.708	_
Baltimore	15	9	.625	2
New York	14	9	.609	2 1/2
Tampa Bay	11	13	.458	6
Toronto	9	16	.360	8 1/2

Central Division

Kansas City	12	8	.600	_
Detroit	12	10	.545	1
Minnesota	10	10	.500	2
Chicago	10	13	.435	3 1/2
Cleveland	8	12	.400	4

West Division

Texas	16	8	.667	_
Oakland	13	12	.520	3 1/2
Los Angeles	9	14	.391	6 1/2
Seattle	10	16	.385	7
Houston	7	17	.292	9

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	15	8	.652	_
Washington	13	11	.542	2 1/2
New York	10	12	.455	4 1/2
Philadelphia	11	14	.440	5
Miami	5	19	.208	10 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	14	9	.609	_
Pittsburgh	14	10	.583	1/2
Milwaukee	12	10	.545	1 1/2
Cincinnati	13	12	.520	2
Chicago	9	14	.391	5

West Division

Colorado	15	9	.625	_
Arizona	14	10	.583	1
San Francisco	13	11	.542	2
Los Angeles	11	12	.478	3 1/2
San Diego	8	15	.348	6 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yankees stay in pennant race

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Saipan Stevedore Northern Yankees are still in pennant contention, following an emphatic 17-2 win over the IP&E Fielders in the 2013 Saipan Major League last Friday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Field.

The defending champions now hold a 9-2 record, tying rival Tan Holdings Brewers for the top spot in the five-team field. The Fielders fell to a 7-4 mark and are out of the running for the pennant, but would play a spoiler's role tonight when they face the Brewers. A Fielders win coupled with a Yankees victory over the D-9ers (1-10) on Wednesday will give the defending champions the pennant. Victories by both Brewers and Yankees would force a standoff for the pennant and the No. 1 seeding and organizers have yet to announce the tiebreak rule.

The Yankees demolished the Fielders after coming off another loss at the hands of the Brewers, 10-12. Tom Agulto pitched 6.1 innings for the Yankees and gave up only four hits and two unearned runs. He struck out four.

Pat Tenorio gave the Fielders their first run at the bottom of the third inning off a fielder's choice, while Jordan Pangelinan scored the other run off a Yankees error. However, despite the two runs, the Yankees were still in control after three complete innings, 6-2. The Yankees got five runs off the Fielders' miscues and one from Byron Kaipat's single.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Northern Yankees' Byron Kaipat gets ready to bat during the top of the second inning of their game against the Fielders in the SML last Friday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Yankees slowly pulled away in the last six innings, saving their best for last, as they scored their most runs—seven at the bottom of the ninth, highlighted by the two-run over-the-fence homer to center field by Kaipat. The Yankees gained two runs off the Fielders' errors and three from David Camacho, Greg Camacho, and Jerome Delos Santos' base hits.

After the Yankees' juggernaut at the top of the ninth inning, the Fielders had a chance to cut the deficit to a decent number when the latter loaded the bases at the bottom with two outs. However, Zack Flores flied out to center fielded, ending the lopsided game for the defending champions.

Hoopaholics nips DFS in Shirley's opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Hoopaholics eked out a 70-68 win over defending champion DFS Galleria during the opening game in the 4th Shirley's Coffee Shop Basketball League last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The Hoopaholics preserved a 5-point lead in the last two minutes, as DFS ran out of time in the end and made some poor decisions in the closing seconds to drop the opener.

A triple from James Lee broke the last deadlock of the match, 67-64, and Dexter Tenorio connected on a drive to make it a 69-64 advantage for the Hoops, with 1:40 left on the clock.

DFS remained in the fight and could have moved closer if Junar Guiab was consistent on the foul line in the ensuing plays. Guiab, however, only went 2-for-4 from the stripe, allowing Hoops to keep its distance, 69-66. Guiab then made up for his free throw misses when he stole an inbound pass and nailed a layup that cut the Hoops' lead to one, 68-69.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Hoopsholics' Ben Lisua sneaks in through DFS defenders during the fourth quarter of their game in the opening of the Shirley's caging last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The Hoops sued for time and was expecting to draw a quick foul from DFS once the game was on. However, DFS had second thoughts and wasted precious seconds before committing the duty foul. Worse, DFS gave up the foul on act of shooting from the 3-point area, with just two seconds left on the clock.

Tenorio then went 1-for-3 from the line, drilling only the second charity and after the miss on his third try, DFS grabbed the rebound and Keoni Chariton pulled up for a desperation shot, but his long throw was blocked by the low ceiling.

The Hoops, composed of the core of the PSS/McGraw-Hill team that placed second to DFS in the 2011 edition of the Shirley's caging, leaned on its balance scoring to thwart the defending champions.

Ben Lisua paced the Hoops with his 14 points, Kelvin Fitial chipped in 12, and Tenorio and Maverick Itibus added 11 apiece. Four other Hoops players made it to the scoreboard, while only five scored for DFS, which was led by the 19 points apiece of Gino Libuw and Dan Barcinas.

Though he top-scored for DFS, Barcinas was held to only one field goal in the fourth quarter, as he had limited touches and his team opted to trade triples with the Hoops rather than go for fastbreak plays against their much taller, but slower foes. The Hoops collected 11 triples against the 10 of DFS.

Meanwhile, eight other teams are entered in this year's Shirley's caging. Joining DFS and the Hoops are Kanoa Resort, Mariana Resort, Mobil, Docomo, Kalayaan, Dollar Days, Saipan Apparel, and the host team.

Hoopaholics 70 – Lisua 14, Fitial 12, Tenorio 11, Itibus 11, Lee 5, Manibusan 3, Cabrera 2, Lauron 1.

DFS 68 – Libuw 19, Barcinas 19, Chariton 14, Guiab 10, Dikito 6.

Scoring by quarters: 15-14, 28-24, 47-47, 70-68.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

No-no lifts Braves to easy wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

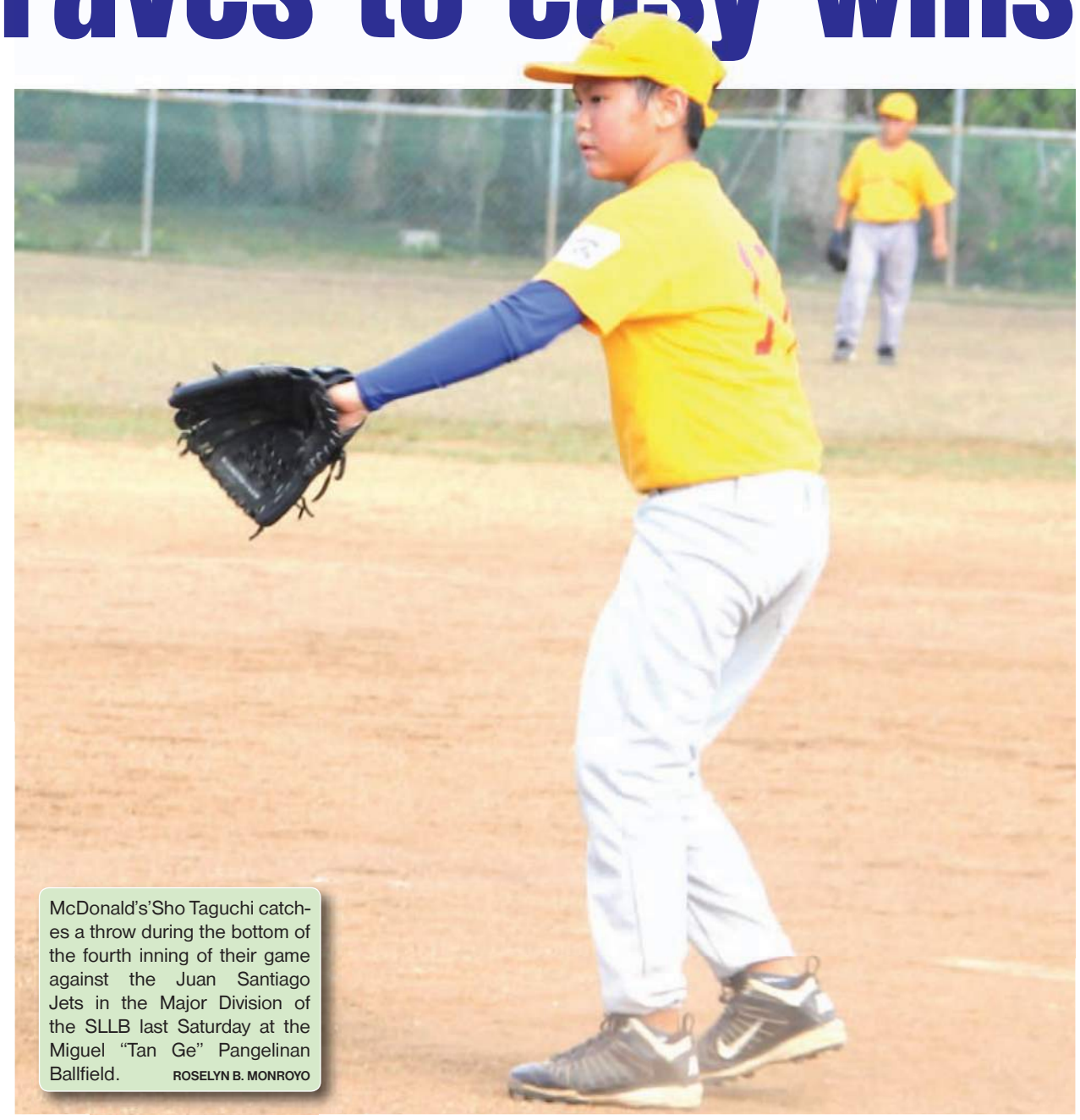
Sho Taguchi threw a no-hitter to power McDonald's to a 17-0 rout of the Juan Santiago Jets during the final game in the Major division of the 2013 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

Taguchi finished off the Jets after only four innings, walking four and striking out 11 in a no-relief job for McDonald's. McDonald's improved to a 7-4 record for a tie for fifth place with the Go See Mark Ol' Aces and Pinnacle Rookies and boosted its chances for the eight-team playoffs, while the Jets fell to a disappointing 1-12 record.

The Jets were still very much in the game after two innings, trailing by only four, before McDonald's turned on the hit at the top of the third, scoring 13 runs.

Spencer Dickinson paced McDonald's with his three RBIs off a 2-for-3 performance at bat. He also had two runs and one triple. Taniguchi was 2-for-3

See NO-NO on Page 26



McDonald's'Sho Taguchi catches a throw during the bottom of the fourth inning of their game against the Juan Santiago Jets in the Major Division of the SLLB last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Warren leads early finalists list

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jireh Warren, right, shakes hands with Maaya Sato after winning a semis match in the girls U10 singles division of the 2013 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Top-ranked Jireh Warren lived up to expectations after advancing to the finals of the girls U10 singles division in the opening week of the 2013 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships.

Warren defeated Maaya Sato in the semifinals, 6-0, yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts to book the first finals berth. She will battle the championship against the winner between Ellie Epley and Maria Gregoire, who were playing in the lower bracket semis as of press time yesterday.

The Sunday match was Warren's first in the singles in Week 1 of the 2013 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships, as she earned a bye in the first round. Warren's foe—Sato—

See WARREN on Page 26

CNMI relives historic win vs Guam

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI U14 National Team is still in cloud nine despite completing its stint in the AFC U14 Championship 2014 Qualifiers in Beijing, China, last Friday.

The Commonwealth strikers capped their participation in the Group G qualifier with a 0-7 loss to China, but the squad remained in high spirit, still savoring its historic win over Guam, 1-0, last Thursday.

"After the game, the boys got cleaned up, turned in their laundry, and ate their last dinner at the cafeteria. Some of the boys wanted to relive that win over Guam so we met in one of the meeting rooms and I played the video of the Guam game to lots of cheering, howling, and jeering from the players," team manager Derek Chambers posted in the team's unofficial website.

The CNMI players and officials

See CNMI on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Several members of the CNMI U14 National Team celebrate after Sunjoon Tenorio, fourth from left, scored against Guam during the second half of their game in an AFC qualifier last Thursday in Beijing, China.